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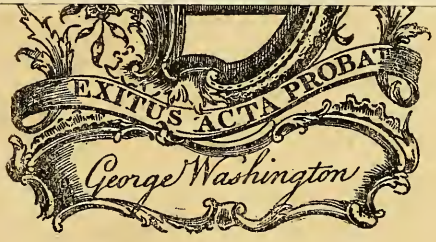

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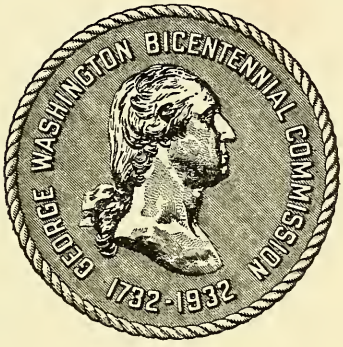
BICENTENNIAL EDITION

THE WRITINGS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON



Newport, May 11th 1781

Sir,

My son is arrived the day before Yesterday, and Commodore De Barras yesternight. I have decyphered my dispatches and the Commodore's orders were not to open his, till the 15th. of May, at his arrival in Rhode island. But I have seen enough by mine to perceive that it is indispensable that We should have a conference with your Excellency as soon as possible. I wait for your answer to my first Letter, that I may know the place and the time fixed by your Excellency. I have the honor to repeat that I believe, the soonest will be best. We must not hope for the Chr. De La Luzerne, tho' I think it would be very usefull, but I shall bring the Chr. De Chastellux.

I am with respect and personal attachment.

Sir,

Your Excellency's

Most obedient

Most humble servant

le Cte de Rochambeau

P.S. I beg of your Excellency to forward to the Chr. de la Luzerne, with speed, the inclosed Letter

Letter of Comte de Rochambeau, May 11, 1781, Requesting a Conference With Washington to Arrange for a Military Cooperation

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THE WRITINGS OF

George Washington

from the

Original Manuscript Sources

1745–1799

Prepared under the direction of the UNITED STATES
GEORGE WASHINGTON BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION
and published by authority of CONGRESS

JOHN C. FITZPATRICK, *Editor*

Volume 22

April 27, 1781-August 15, 1781

United States
Government Printing Office
Washington

General
November 29, 1937

PRINTED
AUGUST, 1937

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V.22

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THE WRITINGS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

THE WRITINGS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, New Windsor, April 27, 1781.

Dear Sir: The Quarter Master informs that the teams with Flour will probably be at New Windsor by tomorrow Night, and suggests whether it will not be adviseable to have flat-bottomed Boats ready for the transportation of it, as sail Boats may be delayed by the adversity of Wind or Tide.

The Commiss of Prisoners reports that there are several Prisoners of War sent on as Recruits from the State of Massachusetts. I had flattered myself this intollerable imposition had been sufficiently guarded against; but since it has happened again, we must prevent the evil from proceeding any farther, by confining those who are evidently under this description, until they can be delivered over to the Commiss of Prisoners, or otherwise properly disposed of. And I must request you, as being the first Officer of that State, to have the Names of these Men, and the Towns and Classes by which they were procured, immediately returned to the State, and that the most effectual measures may be suggested and enforced for supplying the deficiency of Men which will be occasioned by this Measure.

Colonel Tupper is to relieve Colonel Vose immediately, of which you will be pleased to advise the former. Colonel Tupper will call at Head Quarters previous to his departure. No

other Field Officer with the Light Corps is to be relieved at present. I am &c.[1]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, Friday, April 27, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

Congress having been pleased to set apart and appoint Thursday the 3d. of May next for fasting humiliation and prayer, the General enjoins a strict obedience to it in the Army and calls upon the Chaplains thereof to prepare discourses suitable to the occasion.

All duties of Fatigue are to cease on that day.

*To LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER HAMILTON

New Windsor, April 27, 1781.

Dear Sir: Your letter of this date has not a little embarrassed me.[2] You must remember the ferment in the Pensylvania line the last Campaign occasioned by the appointment of Major McPhearson; and you know the uneasiness which at this moment exists among the Eastern Officers on account of the commands conferred upon Colo. Jemat and Major Galvan although it was the result of absolute necessity.

Should circumstances admit of the formation of another advanced Corps of which I see very little prospect from present appearances it can be but small and must be composed almost entirely of Eastern Troops, and to add to the discon-

[1] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

[2] Hamilton had written "I imagine your Excellency has been informed that in consequence of the resolution of Congress for granting commissions to Aide de Camps appointed under the former establishment, I have obtained one of Lieutenant Colonel in the Army of the United States bearing rank since the 1st of March 1777." Hamilton's letter is in the *Washington Papers*. This resolve was passed Feb. 21, 1780.

tents of the Officers of those lines by the further appointment of an Officer of your Rank to the command of it, or in it, would, I am certain, involve me in a difficulty of a very disagreeable and delicate nature; and might perhaps lead to consequences more serious than it is easy to imagine. While I adhere firmly to the right of making such appointments as you request I am at the same time obliged to reflect that it will not do to push that right too far, more especially in a service like ours, and at a time so critical as the present.

I am convinced that no Officer can with justice dispute your merit and abilities. The opposition heretofore made has not been for the want of those qualifications in the Gentlemn who are and have been the objects of discontent. The Officers of the line contend, without having reference to particular persons, that it is a hardship and reflection upon them, to introduce Brevet Officers into commands (of some permanency) in which there are more opportunities of distinguishing themselves than in the line of the Army at large, and with the men they have had the trouble to discipline and prepare for the field.

My principal concern arises from an apprehension that you will impute my refusal of your request to other motives than those I have expressed, but I beg you to be assured I am only influenced by the reasons which I have mentioned. I am etc.[3]

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, New Windsor, April 27, 1781.

Sir: There was never any regular formation of the department of Geographer to the Army, but to the best of my recollection Mr. Erskine's pay was to have been four dollars pr

[3] From the original in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

day and that of his Assistants two dollars pr day. Chain Bearers half a dollar pr day and an allowance for the contingent expenses of travelling when out of reach of the Magazines of the Army and for the purchase of Instruments and the other necessaries of Office. I see, in the heads of a plan which Mr. Erskine had drawn up for the Committee of Arrangement last summer, he mentions that three dollars pr day were to have been allowed to some of his principal Assistants. I therefore make no doubt but it was to have been so, and that it may have escaped my Memory. If any charge of that nature is made in his Account, it is to be allowed.

I do not remember that any allowance was to be made for saddle Horses for Mr. Erskine's personal use, except finding them forage. The department was to be supplied with Waggons and Horses. I mention this, because Mr. De Witt tells me Mr. Erskine has made a charge to the public of a saddle Horse of his own which died while he was in the service. I am &c.[4]

CERTIFICATE TO CAPTAIN LEWIS GARANGER

Head Quarters at New Windsor,
State of New York, April 27, 1781.

Monsieur Lewis Garanger Capt. of Bombardiers in the Army of France entered the American service with the Rank of Captain in the Army of the United States in December 1778; from which time he has waited an opportunity of being employed in the particular line of his profession, but none having occurred he has requested and obtained liberty to return to France.

Capt. Garanger has ever been extremely solicitous to render himself serviceable and has upon several occasions behaved

[4] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

with address and bravery as appears by the Certificates of Major Genl. Howe and Colonel Armand Marquis De Rouirie under whom he immediately served at those times.[5]

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, New Windsor, April 28, 1781.

Dear Sir: The necessity of getting forward what Flour is upon the communication urges me to a measure which I would not wish to adopt could it be avoided. It is to make use of part of a sum of money sent to the Paymaster General by the State of Massachusetts purposely for the payment of the troops of that line. You will in consequence of this receive a Warrant for 9000. dollars of the new emission, which, that it may be applied solely to the purpose for which it is intended, you will keep in your own hands and inform the Deputies at Sussex, Ringwood and Warwick that they may give the owners of teams an assurance of being paid their freight immediately upon the delivery of the Flour here. Should there be any quantity at Trenton and Colo. Neilsen should be under difficulties respecting the transportation of it, you may spare him a part of the money under strict injunctions to apply it solely to the present emergency. If your deputies can agree for part payment in money it will be so much the better as it will make the only sum which there is any chance of getting hold of, go so much the further. You will, for obvious reasons, keep intirely to yourself from what fund this Money is drawn. And as this will be but a temporary relief, you will endeavour, in the mean time, to make arrangements for bringing forward our future supplies without the disagreeable expedient of impress.

[5]The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

I think you may now order in part of the Ox teams from Connecticut as pasture will be good by the time they can arrive, and care should be taken that they come laden with provision or some kind of Stores. There were particularly 40 Hhds. of Rum at Hartford. I also think it will now be proper to distribute the Flour from Trenton on the Sussex and Morris Road. That from Morris may come safely to Kings ferry which will shorten transportation and impose part of the Burthen upon a district which has not lately been harassed. I am &c.

P. S. Be pleased to make me a Return of the number of Tents of the last Campaign which will be of service this, and how the old ones are disposed of.[6]

*To JOHN FLOOD

Hd. Qrs. New Windsor, April 29, 1781.

Sir: If Jesse Cole, an Inhabitant of the City of New York, will undertake to communicate, with me through the Channel that has been proposed to him, or any other which may be more direct and better; and will give me regular information of the enemys movements, strength, and designs, as far as he can come at them, from good information and his own observation, particularly noting their reinforcements, Embarkations, and the disposition of their Troops on the different Islands, and of their Ships of War in the Harbr., and where the case requires it will give this intelligence with dispatch. I do, in behalf of the United States, promise that due consideration of his services shall be had, and compensation made, when circumstances will admit of it.

[6] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

On April 28 Humphreys, by direction of Washington, wrote to Heath: "that the Troops of the Massachusetts Line may receive four Months Pay." Humphreys's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WATERBURY

Head Quarters, New Windsor, April 29, 1781.

Sir: Captains Scudder and Dean [7] inform me that you had, from not being acquainted with circumstances, detained a Boat in which they had been over to Long Island. These Gentlemen were employed under my orders at that time and will have occasion to cross the Sound every now and then as the business upon which they are engaged may require. You will therefore be pleased to give them up the Boat, and as I have now, in a confidential manner, intrusted you with their business, I shall hope that you will not only keep it a secret, but endeavour to assist them in the prosecution of a plan in which the public good is much interested. I do not mean to protect or countenance them in any manner of trade, should they attempt to carry it on. I am &c.

P. S. It may very probably lay in your way to obtain intelligence from New York, should any thing material occur, you will oblige me by communicating it to me.[8]

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, April 29, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have received Your Excellency's favor of Yesterday with the inclosures, by Col Nicoll.[9] An order for the Ammunition has been previously given, in consequence of your first application. With respect to provision, of the Meat kind, I confess I am entirely at a loss by what means it can be supplied to the Troops on the Frontier: the whole dependance

[7] Capts. William Scudder and Gilbert Dean (Deane).
[8] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[9] Col Isaac Nicoll, of the Orange County (N. Y.) militia.

of the Army for this Article is upon the Eastern States; the unfavorable season for obtaining Beef Cattle between this time and grass and especially the want of means for purchasing will prevent the supply which was expected: and the difficulty of transporting the salted Provisions has already reduced us to the last Mouthfull. General Heath informed me yesterday, that there was but one day's allowance of the Irish Beef left in the store, and that not a barrel had arrived at the Garrison from the Eastward. Thus unpromising, your Excellency sees, our prospects of supplies and transportation are! I have ordered a quantity of Fish to be contracted for, on this River. And will still persist in using my best endeavors to keep the Army together, and to afford as much protection to the Country, as the means intrusted to me shall enable me to do. I have the honor etc.[10]

To BARON STEUBEN

(Private)

Head Quarters, New Windsor, April 30, 1781.

It gives me great satisfaction, My Dear Baron, amidst the innumerable sollicitudes and embarrassments, with which I am surrounded, that I can unbosom myself with perfect security, to my confidential friends, and at the same time assure myself of their best advice and assistance in the Management of the most delicate Matters.

At this moment, I will frankly confess to you, I am extremely perplexed and distressed at the uneasiness and discontents which prevail among all the Officers of the Regt of Lt Infantry to which Major Galvan is now annexed, with respect to the conduct of that Gentleman. From their remonstrances, and the

[10] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

Universal report, it appears that his behaviour has been so untoward and disobliging, as to create the greatest disgust in all the Corps, and as will tend essentially to injure the service. *This,* together with his having been in the Light Corps the last Campaign, would induce me to Order him to be relieved, if the consideration of his being a foreigner (to whom you know, I wish every suitable attention and encouragement to be paid) an idea of his personal abilities and respectable Connexions, did not prevent.

Knowing your friendship for, and influence with Major Galvan to be very considerable, I sincerely wish him, thro you, to be persuaded to adopt such a line of conduct as will make him more agreeable to the Corps, as well as more serviceable to the Public. Otherwise, however splendid his abilities and Military talents may be, they will be entirely useless to himself and the World. And in the issue, I fear, I shall be compelled to supersede him, in order to prevent the most disagreeable consequences.

But I will confide the management of this affair, my Dear Baron, to your address and unlimited zeal for the good of the service, and am, with sincerity, etc.[11]

To MAJOR GENERAL SAMUEL HOLDEN PARSONS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, April 30, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have had the pleasure to receive Your Letter of the 20th Instant, and am glad to find by it, that You are in a fair way of recovering Your health again, and that the measures You had taken previous to Your illness, have been attended with some degree of success. As soon as the circumstances will possibly admit, I wish the Detachment of Continental Troops

[11] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

at Danbury may be sent back to the Army. The Quarter Master General, having it in contemplation to have a considerable quantity of Provision brought on, at once from Danbury to Peekskill, it will be well to make use of these Troops as an Escort for it; and to give the Commanding Officer directions to afford his aid and assistance, in every possible way, to facilitate the transportation.

There are insuperable obstacles, which will at present prevent an attempt to carry into execution the Enterprise you have suggested.[12] It may however be expedient to keep even the proposal a secret. I am etc.[13]

To MAJOR BENJAMIN TALLMADGE

Head Quarters, New Windsor, April 30, 1781.

Dear Sir: Your two favors of the 24th and 25th have been duly received.

Fully impressed with the idea of the Utility of early, regular and accurate communications of the kind in contemplation, I shall make no difficulty in acceding to the proposal contained in Your Private Letter from N Port of the 25th. But at the same time, I am engaging in behalf of the United States, a liberal reward for the services of the C——s,[14] (of whose fidelity and ability I entertain a high opinion) it is certainly but reasonable, from patriotism and every other principle, that their exertions should be proportionably great, to subserve essentially the interest of the *Public*. All the interior and minute arrangements of the Correspondence, I request you will settle with them as expeditiously and as advantageously as may be:

[12] Parsons had suggested an expedition against Lloyd's Neck, Long Island, and wished to command it.

[13] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

[14] Samuel Culper, sr., and Samuel Culper, jr.

and especially that you will urge, in very forcible terms, the necessity of having the communications as circumstantial, frequent and expeditious as possible.

The great objects of information you are very well acquainted with: such as Arrivals, Embarkations, Preparations for Movements, alteration of Positions, situation of Posts, Fortifications, Garrisons, strength or weakness of each, distribution and strength of Corps, and in general every thing which can be interesting and important for us to know.

Besides these, you are also sensible there are many things upon a smaller scale, which are necessary to be reported: and that whatever intelligence is communicated, ought to be, not in general terms, but in detail, and with the greatest precision.

At present I am anxious to know (for the reports have been very numerous vague and uncertain) whether another embarkation is preparing, and if so, to what amount and where destined; what the present force of the Enemy is; particularly on Long Island, in new York and at Kings bridge: what Corps are at the latter place, how strong, and where posted exactly; And indeed what the situations, prospects, and designs of the enemy are so far, as they can be penetrated into. I am etc.[15]

To COLONEL JEREMIAH WADSWORTH

Head Quarters, New Windsor, April 30, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have been favored with your Letters of the 19th and 20th Instant.

General Beville having made the tour from Rhode Island to Camp, and back again on different routes, and having taken every precaution, to obtain an accurate knowledge of the Country and roads; will be able to advise and settle with the

[15] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

Commanding Officer of the french Army, which will be the most convenient route for the March of the Troops, taking every circumstance into consideration. On many accounts, the March on the Sea Coast would certainly be the most eligible, and indeed I see no considerable obstacle in the way of it, except the Ferries. I am &c.

P. S. I have to request you will forward the enclosed to Major Tallmadge, by the first opportunity.[16]

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, New Windsor, April 30, 1781.

Sir: I have had the honor of receiving your Excellency's and the Chevalier des Touche's joint letter of the 25th: and your own of the 26th.

The absence of your light Frigates renders the plan which Major Tallmadge proposed impracticable for the present. We will, however, keep the enterprise in view, and may, perhaps, at some future time, find an opportunity of carrying it into execution with success.[17]

I will, in due season, send a proper Officer to make himself acquainted with the defences of Newport.

General de Beville will, I presume by this time, have reported to your Excellency the substance of his conference with me, and his own opinion of the different Routes from New-

[16] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

[17] Tallmadge successfully executed the proposed surprise, which was against Fort Slongo, on the north shore of Long Island, about 48 miles northeast of Brooklyn, Oct. 2–3, 1781, without the aid of the French.

On April 30 Tench Tilghman wrote to John Moylan, Clothier General of the Continental Army, that "Upon a representation of the distress of the southern Army it has been agreed to send a further supply of 1500 Woolen Vests, 300 largest and best Leather Breeches, 3000 Linen Overalls, 3000 socks." The Quartermaster General was to send them to Philadelphia, directed to the Board of War. The Commissary of Hides in Jersey "was to send all the shoes he can procure to Philada. until further orders." Tilghman's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

port to the North River. I can only, as I have done before, recommend to you to proceed in making the necessary preparations for the Field, and assure you again that you shall have the earliest notice should any movements of the Enemy make yours necessary by land. The detachment which is preparing at New York had not sailed by my last accounts from thence. May they not be waiting for the repair of the damaged Ships of War?

In the inclosed paper you will find several interesting intelligences from Europe and the West Indies, under the Philadelphia head. The letter of 18th: March from Martinico is said to be from one of our Agents to the president of Congress. The intelligence from the Havanna is the substance of a letter from the Governor to Don Fransisco Rendon the Spanish Agent at Philadelphia.

I shall in future address myself on naval Affairs to the Chevalier des Touche by the method which your Excellency has been pleased to point out. I have the honor etc.[18]

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, New Windsor, April 30, 1781.

Dr Sir: I enclose to you, a Letter for Major General Parsons; in which I have mentioned the return of a Detachment of about 80 Continental Troops now at Danbury, and have suggested their being employed as an Escort to the Provisions to be forwarded from thence. The Commanding Officer will have Orders to afford every possible assistance to facilitate the transportation, and I must desire you will make use of the occasion to the best and most extensive advantage. I am etc.[19]

[18] In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From a photostat of the original in the Chateau de Rochambeau, France.

[19] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

*To LUND WASHINGTON

New Windsor, April 30, 1781.

Dear Lund: Your letter of the 18th. came to me by the last Post. I am very sorry to hear of your loss; I am a little sorry to hear of my own;[20] but that which gives me most concern, is, that you should go on board the enemys Vessels, and furnish them with refreshments. It would have been a less painful circumstance to me, to have heard, that in consequence of your non-compliance with their request, they had burnt my House, and laid the Plantation in ruins. You ought to have considered yourself as my representative, and should have reflected on the bad example of communicating with the enemy, and making a voluntary offer of refreshments to them with a view to prevent a conflagration.

It was not in your power, I acknowledge, to prevent them from sending a flag on shore, and you did right to meet it; but you should, in the same instant that the business of it was unfolded, have declared, explicitly, that it was improper for you to yield to the request; after which, if they had proceeded

[20]According to a copy found in the Toner Transcripts in the Library of Congress, taken from a manuscript memorandum made by Lund Washington in April, 1781, and inclosed in his letter of April 18, the loss suffered by Mount Vernon was principally in slaves. The British sloop of war *Savage*, commanded by Capt. Richard Graves, took "a very valuable Boat: 24 feet Keel," and the following slaves: "Peter. an old man. Lewis. an old man. Frank. an old man. Frederick. a man about 45 years old; an overseer and valuable. Gunner. a man about 45 years old; valuable, a Brick maker. Harry. a man about 40 years old, valuable, a Horseler. Tom, a man about 20 years old, stout and Healthy. Sambo. a man about 20 years old, stout and Healthy. Thomas. a lad about 17 years old, House servant. Peter. a lad about 15 years old, very likely. Stephen. a man about 20 years old, a cooper by trade. James. a man about 25 years old, stout and Healthy. Watty. a man about 20 years old, by trade a weaver. Daniel. a man about 19 years old, very likely. Lucy. a woman about 20 years old. Esther. a woman about 18 years old. Deborah. a woman about 16 years old." A later note adds: "Frederick, Frank, Gunner, Sambo, Thomas recovered in Philadelphia. Lucy, Esther were recovered after the siege of York. The Genl. pd. salvage on Tom, in Philadelphia but I cannot tell what it was. I pd. 12 Dollars expence on him from Philadelphia here. LUND WASHINGTON."

to help themselves, *by force,* you could but have submitted (and being unprovided for defence) this was to be prefered to a feeble opposition which only serves as a pretext to burn and destroy.

I am thoroughly perswaded that you acted from your best judgment; and believe, that your desire to preserve my property, and rescue the buildings from impending danger, were your governing motives. But to go on board their Vessels; carry them refreshments; commune with a parcel of plundering Scoundrels, and request a favor by asking the surrender of my Negroes, was exceedingly ill-judged, and 'tis to be feared, will be unhappy in its consequences, as it will be a precedent for others, and may become a subject of animadversion.

I have no doubt of the enemys intention to prosecute the plundering plan they have begun. And, unless a stop can be put to it by the arrival of a superior naval force, I have as little doubt of its ending in the loss of all my Negroes, and in the destruction of my Houses; but I am prepared for the event, under the prospect of which, if you could deposit, in safety, at some convenient distance from the Water, the most valuable and least bulky articles, it might be consistent with policy and prudence, and a mean of preserving them for use hereafter. such, and so many things as are necessary for common, and present use must be retained and run their chance through the firy trial of this summer.

Mrs. Washington joins me in best and affectionate regard for you, Mrs. Washington and Milly Posey; and does most sincerely regret your loss. I do not know what Negros they may have left you; and as I have observed before, I do not know what number they will have left me by the time they have done; but this I am sure of, that you shall never want assistance, while it is in my power to afford it. I am etc.

*To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, New Windsor, April 30, 1781.

Sir: I assure your Excellency, that I feel extreme pain at the occasion of that part of your letter of the 26th. Inst. which relates to an intercepted letter of mine published by the enemy. I am unhappy, that an accident should have put it in their power to give to the world any thing from me, which may contain an implication the least disagreeable to you or to the Chevalier Des-Touches. I assure you sincerely, that I have no copy of the original letter in my possession, so that I am unable by a comparison to determine how far the publication may be just. The enemy have fabricated whole letters for me, and even a series of letters; and it is not improbable they may have given a different turn to some of my expressions in the present instance. It would however be disingenuous in me not to acknowledge that I believe the general import to be true. The copy however which Your Excellency has sent me differs in some respects from that which the enemy has published, as you will perceive by the inclosed Gazette. Whatever construction it may bear, I beg your Excellency will consider the letter as to a private friend, a Gentleman who has the direction of my concerns at home, totally unconnected with public affairs, and on whose discretion I could absolutely rely. No idea of the same kind has ever gone to any public body.

When I say that I believe the general import of the publication to be true, I mean it in this sense, that there did appear to me a degree of delay in executing the enterprise, suggested by me, with the causes of which I was not well apprised; and an idea of this kind was, probably, expressed in my letter to Mr. Washington. As to the apparent insinuation that the first

expedition had been preferred to the one proposed by me, I could not have intended to convey it,[21] because it would have been unjust. I could not but have recollected that my *formal* proposal did not reach you till after the departure of the first Squadron.[22] My letter however was written in haste, and might have been inaccurately expressed.

I have lately learnt (though not officially) that the cause of the delay I have alluded to was a want of Supplies for the Fleet. Impressed with a real esteem for, and confidence in the Chevalier Des Touches, I heard this circumstance with satisfaction.

With this explanation I leave the matter to his candor and to yours, and flatter myself it will make no impressions inconsistent with an intire perswasion of my sincere esteem and attachment. I have the honor etc.[23]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor,
Monday, April 30, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

John Powel, a Soldier in the New Hampshire line, tried the 27th. instant by the Brigade General Court Martial whereof Major Scott[24] was president, charged with "repeated Desertion" was found Guilty and sentenced to suffer Death more than two thirds of the Court agreeing. The Commander in Chief approves the Sentence.

[21] The draft, which is by Hamilton, has at this point the following inserted by Washington: "in its fullest latitude."

[22] The draft at this point has the following inserted by Washington: "tho' the suggestion of it was previous."

[23] From a photostat of the original in the Chateau de Rochambeau, France.

[24] Maj. William Scott, of the First New Hampshire Regiment. He retired in January, 1783.

To ABRAHAM SKINNER

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 1, 1781.

Sir: You will be pleased to forward the inclosed to Sir Henry Clinton by the speediest conveyance. As it is to revoke the recall of General Burgoyne you may proceed fully upon the instructions of the 12th. of April and endeavour to accomplish the exchange of that Officer upon the terms specified therein. I am &c.[25]

To BARON STEUBEN

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 1, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have received your favor of the 15th: Had it been possible for you to have carried your plan of marching suddenly into North Carolina into execution it would most probably have occasioned the ruin of Lord Cornwallis. But this is one of the thousand instances which daily shew the evils resulting from feeding and paying troops which can only be used for local purposes.

The Arms which Capt. La Touche[26] landed in the Delaware, have been forwarded and one thousand stand with as many Cartouch Boxes will go immediately from hence. Lead is a very scarce Article with us, but as much of that and as much Ammunition as can possibly be spared will be forwarded. In short nothing shall be wanting on my part to give every assistance in my power to a quarter which so much needs it.

I have repeatedly urged to Congress and the States the Completion of their Cavalry. I believe the want of means to purchase Horses at the exorbitant prices asked for them is the reason why it is not done.

[25] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[26] La Touche-Tréville.

I inclose you a list of all the Virginia Officers who have been exchanged in this department since January 1780. The Dy. Commy. to the southward can furnish you with an account of those who have been exchanged there. I never have yet had returns from him.

The Virginia Officers transmitted me a Copy of their representation against General Weedon's coming again into service.[27] It being a matter intirely dependant upon the pleasure of Congress, I did not conceive myself at liberty to give an opinion upon the subject, and gave them that answer.

I am exceedingly happy to hear that you are to remain a while longer in Virginia, as I am certain that much of what has been done has been owing to your assiduous exertions, and that matters would go on slowly were they left to the management of persons not acquainted with the Business. I am &c.[28]

To COLONEL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 1, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have received the Communications, which you did me the favor to make in your Letter of the 20th Ultimo.

The knowledge of the present state of the Enemy in New York and its dependencies, with regard to the total strength and the particular disposition of the Corps, is of so great and interesting importance, that I must request, you will have the goodness to turn your earliest and strictest attention to obtain and communicate the information of these things, with the greatest certainty and precision.

Should the Detachment, which has been so long in preparation, sail from New York; I should wish to be informed as

[27] This copy is in the *Washington Papers* under date of Feb. 18, 1781.
[28] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

expeditiously as possible of the moment of its departure the particular Corps it consists of, their strength, and the destination; as also of the number of the regular force (including all the established Corps) still remaining on Staten Island, in New York and at Kings Bridge, specifying the Regts. by name, and noting the distribution at each Post with as much accuracy as possible.

I rely on your utmost exertions to promote the public good, and am etc.[29]

To SIR HENRY CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 1, 1781.

Sir: I have been authorized, since my letter of the 16th. April, to revoke the demand, then made, of the return of Lieut. General Burgoyne to America. If letters of recall have not been already transmitted to him, you will be pleased to suspend them. If they have, you will be so obliging as to take the earliest opportunity to countermand them. I have the Honor etc.[30]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 1, 1781.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's favors of the 20th: and 23d. ulto.

I shall take as early measures as circumstances will admit for having an enquiry into the conduct of Colo. Brodhead and the Deputy Quarter Master at Fort pitt. Mr. Fowlers[31] Charges

[29] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.
[30] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[31] Alexander Fowler, auditor of accounts, Western Department.

are so very diffuse, that I shall be obliged to call upon him to specify them more particularly, and I apprehend there will then be a necessity of taking Depositions on the spot, according to the mode pointed out by resolve of Congress, and bringing the matter to trial with the Army, as it will be impossible to constitute a Court at Fort Pitt to try an Officer of Colo. Brodheads Rank, I shall consult the Judge Advocate upon the occasion, and no time shall be lost in investigating matters properly and bringing the delinquents, if they shall be found so, to justice.

I have in consequence of the authority given to me by the Resolve of the 23d. ulto. revoked the recall of Lt. General Burgoyne and directed the Commissary of prisoners to endeavour to effect his exchange.

I have been obliged, from the distress to which we were reduced for want of provision, to apply 9,000 dollars of the new emission, of the Money sent by the State of Massachusetts for the payment of her Troops, to the use of the Quarter Masters department, to enable him to bring forward Flour from Jersey and salt Meat from Connecticut. Before I would consent to this expedient, I was driven to the necessity of consuming every ounce of provision which had been kept as a reserve in the Garrison of West point; and I had strained impress by military force to that length, that I trembled for the consequence of the execution of every Warrant which I granted for the purpose, so much are the people irritated by the frequent calls which have been made upon them in that way. If it be possible to furnish the Quarter Master with but a little money to enable him to pay part for transportation, I most earnestly request it may be done, as I am confident the measures we have hitherto been pursuing, cannot be much longer made use of

without imminent danger of bringing the people to an open resistance.

The expences incident to the command of West point have become considerable, not only on account of its being much resorted to by strangers of Rank and people upon business who are generally entertained, but because the Commandant is under the necessity of supporting a Table at which several of the Officers of the Garrison daily dine. This has heretofore been at his own Charge as no public allowance has been made. Congress will I doubt not think it reasonable that some compensation should be made and direct such an one as they shall think proper. I have the honor etc.[32]

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 1, 1781.

Gentlemen: Your favr. of the 21st: ulto. reached me on the 28th. Should their be no Naval Officer of Captain Willings Rank who has a prior right of exchange, I shall be very glad to see his effected, as he has been peculiarly severely treated by the enemy, but if Lt. Colo. Rogers is a continental prisoner of War I cannot consistently permit him to be exchanged for Capt. Willing solely, without making a precedent of what the enemy want extremely to establish, that of rating our Captains of the Navy as Lt. Colos. of the land forces. If it is Captain Willings turn and the Commy. of prisoners can make an exchange by composition, I have not the least objection. Or, if Lt. Colo. Rogers should be a state prisoner of Penna. and the Executive would give him up for the release of Captain Willing, it might be negotiated as a matter not in common course

[32] In the writing of Tench Tilghman. The letter was read in Congress on May 7 and referred to the Board of War.

and our Commy. of prisoners might be instructed to signify to the British that it was not done upon the principle of allowing him to be of the Rank of a Lieut. Colonel, I have the honor etc.

P. S. previous to the Rect. of your favr. of the 25th. April, I had given orders for the exchange of salt for Fish, to as great an Amount as I conceived, from the information before me, the state of our Magazine would admit.[33]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL EBENEZER STEVENS

Head Quarters, May 2, 1781.

Sir: You will be pleased immediately to order out a party of fifteen or twenty picked men under proper officers to go with Major Logan,[34] late of the York Line, to endeavour to apprehend a gang of Villains in this neighbourhood. Major Logan

[33] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[34] Maj. Samuel Logan, of the New York levies.

On May 1, 1781, Washington began "a concise Journal of Military transactions &ca. I lament not having attempted it from the commencement of the War, in aid of my memory. . . . To have the clearer understanding of the entries which may follow, it would be proper to recite, in detail, our wants and our prospects; but. . . . It may suffice to give the sum of them. . . . Instead of having Magazines filled with provisions, we have a scanty pittance scattered here and there in the different States. Instead of having our Arsenals well supplied with Military Stores, they are poorly provided, and the Workmen all leaving them. Instead of having the various articles of Field equipage in readiness to deliver, the Quarter Master General (as the dernier resort, according to his acct.) is but now applying to the several States to provide these things for their Troops respectively. Instead of having a regular System of transportation established upon credit; or funds in the Qr. Masters hands to defray the contingent expences of it we have neither the one nor the other and all that business, or a great part of it, being done by Military Impress, we are daily and hourly oppressing the people, souring their tempers, and alienating their affections. Instead of having the regiments compleated to the new establishment which ought to have been so by the of agreeably to the requisitions of Congress, scarce any State in the Union has, at this hour, an eighth part of its quota in the field and little prospect, that I can see, of ever getting more than half. In a word, instead of having every thing in readiness to take the Field, we have nothing and instead of having the prospect of a glorious offensive campaign before us, we have a bewildered and gloomy defensive one, unless we should receive a powerful aid of Ships, Land Troops, and Money from our generous allies and these, at present, are too contingent to build upon." This journals is in the *Washington Papers,* and has been published in *Washington's Diaries* (Boston: 1925). It was kept nearly every day from May 1 to Nov. 5, 1781, when it abruptly ends. Washington did not resume making diary entries until 1784.

will guide the party and point out the objects. Let them take three days provision if possible. The party will march as speedily as possible, as one of the Gang is already taken up, and it is feared the others will gain intelligence of it. I have directed the order to you in the first instance as I know General Knox is not at home. I am &c.[35] [N.Y.H.S.]

To NATHANIEL STEVENS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 2, 1781.

Sir: His Excellency directs me to inform you, that he has just received a letter from Col Udny Hay, inclosing one from the Bd of War, in which the same measure of putting up a quantity of Fish on this River is advised, which has been already adopted. Col Hay mentions that Mr Monell,[36] Major Wyckoff,[37] Judge Wynkoop[38] of Eusopus, and Col Stoukenburgh[39] of Albany, would be proper persons to be employed in the execution of this business, and that it will be necessary the Barrells and salt should be immediately furnished. The General only observes on this subject, that it is indifferent to him whether the Contracts are made with public or private Persons, but that it is a matter of the greatest importance that the Contracts should be faithfully executed, and the Public and not Individuals benifitted by them.

General Heath will give directions how frequently the Fish shall be issued at present. I am etc.

P. S. Yours of yesterday, is this moment recd.[40]

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[35] In the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[36] James Monell, purchasing agent for New York.
[37] Maj. Hendrich Wyckoff, of the Dutchess County (N. Y.) militia.
[38] Judge Derick Wynkoop.
[39] Col. Isaac Stoutenburgh, of the Albany County militia.
[40] This draft is signed "D. Humphrys, A. D. C."

To LIEUTENANT JOHN TOWNES[41]

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 2, 1781.

Sir: I have recd. yours of the 25th. of April from Philada. I could not, without being guilty of the utmost impropriety, call for the proceedings of the Court Martial to which you allude, and which have been sent to General Greene as Commanding Officer of the southern Army. Of this I can assure you, that you may safely depend upon that Gentlemans judgment and impartiality. I am etc.[42]

To FRANCISCO RENDON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 2, 1781.

Sir: I have had the very great pleasure and satisfaction to receive your two favors of the 16th and 24th. Ultimo.

Suffer me to congratulate you, Sir, on the success of the Arms of the King, your Master, in the recapture of Fort St. Juan de Nicaragua, whereby the boasted exploits and expectations of the Enemy in that quarter are totally frustrated. And do me the justice to believe, that I sincerely participate in your felicity; at the pleasing prospects of further and more important successes against the British at Pensacola, as well as against the *fleet,* in pursuit of which, you are so obliging as to mention Nineteen Ships of the Line had actually sailed. I shall be made extremely happy, by being informed of the successful issue of these expeditions.

At present, I have no intelligence of importance to communicate to you. The *Reports* of another embarkation at New

[41] Of the Sixth Virginia Regiment. He retired in January, 1783.
[42] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

York, have prevailed for many days; but they have been so vague and uncertain, as not to be absolutely depended upon; Whenever anything of moment to the common cause shall turn up to view, I shall not fail to acquaint you therewith, being with very great attachment and respect etc.[43]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor,
Wednesday, May 2, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

At a General Court Martial held at Westpoint the 24th. April and continued by adjournments 'till the 1st. instant. Major Graham president.

Ensign Murdoch McPherson[44] of Colonel Hazen's regiment, was tried, charged with "Neglect of duty in leaving the guard under his command (having Prisoners in charge) on his way to Easton, at which time a number made their escape.

The Court on consideration are of opinion that Ensign McPherson is guilty of the charge against him in breach of Article 5th. Section 18th. of the Rules and Articles of war and sentence that he be reprimanded in General orders.

The Commander in Chief approves the Sentence of the Court. He thinks Ensign McPherson's conduct reprehensible in the highest degree; nothing reflects greater dishonor on an officer or can be productive of more fatal consequences than Negligence and Inattention when on duty; Charges which appear to be but too clearly proved against Ensign McPherson.

[43] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

[44] Ensign Murdoch (Murdock) McPherson, of the Second Canadian Regiment. He had been promoted to lieutenant, to date from April, 1777; transferred to the Invalid Regiment in 1782; served to September, 1783.

Ensign McPherson is released from arrest.

Brigadier General Hand will inspect the first Massachusett and Connecticut Brigades on Monday the 7th. instant the second Massachusett and Connecticut brigades on Wednesday the 9th. the third Massachusett and that part of General Stark's brigade not on the lines on Friday the 11th. instant if the Weather permits.

The inspection of the troops on the Point to commence between nine and ten o'clock in the forenoon.

The troops on the East side of the river will be inspected in the afternoon of the days abovementioned and hold themselves in readiness to fall in by regiment, on beating the Long Roll.

As far as circumstances will admit the troops are to be excused Duty on the Day of inspection.

Besides the usual Inspection returns the present State of the Arms Accoutrements and Ammunition of each regiment is to be made out agreeable to a Form herewith Transmitted to Major Porter[45] deputy Adjutant General.

No Arms or Accoutrements to be issued except for Recruits untill this Inspection is Completed.

To MAJOR GENERAL SAMUEL HOLDEN PARSONS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 3, 1781.

Dear Sir: Your Letters of the 30th of April and 2d of May together with the Proceedings of the Court Martial whereof Lt Col Gray was President, have been handed to me by Captain Walker.[46]

[45] Maj. John(?) Porter, of the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment.

[46] Capt. Joseph Walker, of the Third Connecticut Regiment. He was aide to Parsons from December, 1780, to July, 1782, with the rank of major.

I hope the Journey you propose will have a happy tendency towards the recovery of your health, and that you will soon be enabled to join the Army again, after your return; tho' I would not wish you to do it so prematurely as to endanger a relapse.

Part of the intelligence you have been so obliging as to communicate I had received thro another Channel, but not the whole. The intercepted Letter alluded to, said to be written by me to a Gentleman at the Southward, I suppose must have been an Official One addressed to the Speaker of the Assembly of Virginia,[47] in which our situation in many respects was pretty plainly delineated, but you may be assured, there were ideas held up in that Letter, which were by no means grateful to the Enemy, which have embarrassed them exceedingly and which will be a sufficient reason to prevent their publishing the Contents of it at large to the World.

I am sorry to be forced to inform you on the subject of your Pay, that there is not a farthing in the Military Chest, except some Monies which have been sent on by particular States for the Payment of the Troops of their Lines, and which cannot be appropriated to any other purpose. I am etc.

P. S. The Sentence of the Court Martial is approved. The Adjt Gen. will transmit the Warrant for execution. Such of the Culprits at Danbury as are to be delivered over to the Civil Authority ought to be transferred immediately. The remainder of the Prisoners should be disposed of, or secured in the best and most expeditious manner, that the Detachment of Continental Troops may be marched to the army without delay, agreeably to my Letter of the 30th. Ulto.[48]

[47] See Washington's letter to Benjamin Harrison, Mar. 27, 1781, *ante*.
[48] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 3, 1781.

Sir: I have had the honor of receiving Your Excellency's Letter of the 28th of April, and of forwarding the Dispatches for the Chevalier de la Luzerne, which were transmitted to my care. I will expect the pleasure of Mr. De Menonville's[49] Company in his route to Philadelphia.

Nothing material has occurred since my last Letter. With the highest esteem etc.[50]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 4, 1781.

Dear Sir: Instantly on the receipt of your Letter of the 16th. Ulto. (which came to hand in two days from the date) I dispatched a Copy of it to Congress;[51] enforcing thereby the pointed representations, and earnest sollicitations, I was making at that moment, respecting the supplies of the Army: how far Congress will be able to devise ways and means for immediate relief, or induce the States to comply with their former requisitions, I cannot determine; but in the mean time every possible exertion should be used, to obtain Bread from this State, and Meat from the Counties of the Massachusetts most contiguous to you. And where persuasion, entreaty, and requisition fail of success, Military Coertion must be made use of.

Rather than the Garrison of Fort Schuyler should fall; and the Frontiers be again desolated and laid waste, I am

[49] Francois Louis Thibaut, Comte de Ménonville, First deputy Adjutant General, French Army and aide to Rochambeau.

[50] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

[51] See Washington's letter to the President of Congress, Apr. 18, 1781, *ante*.

persuaded the State will make a great effort to afford a supply of flour for the Troops in that quarter. And I confess, I see no other alternative, under our present circumstances. With respect to provision of the Meat kind; it must principally be drawn from the Deposits of the State of Massachusetts nearest to you. Mr. Oliver Phelps the State Agent (at Springfield I believe) will be able to inform at what places and in what quantities the salted meat has been put up, for the use of the Continent. If you are not able to have these Provisions transported, by the Public Officers, or to obtain Teams for the purpose; by an impress granted by the Civil Authority, You will be at liberty to adopt compulsory Measures, and collect Teams by a Military force, in such a Manner, as to distress the Possessors of them as little as posible. Great prudence and effectual coertion, will be necessary, and may be combined.

There is a quantity of Fish putting up on this River, of which the Troops at the Northward, may also have a proportion. I am etc.[52] [M.L.]

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 4, 1781.

Sir: Alarming accounts of the state of Provisions at Fort Schuyler, having this moment been received, it is necessary that an instantaneous exertion should be made to throw a supply into that Garrison. You will therefore, cause a transportation to be made, of 50 Barrels of Meat and 50 Barrels of Flour to Albany, without a moments delay. The Flour can be taken from the Magazine at New Windsor, the Meat probably from Fishkill landing, as 60 Barrels came to that place since the day before Yesterday. If the Meat is not there, enough for the

[52] In the writing of David Humphreys.

occasion is at Fishkill Town, and must be got to the landing and on board as early as possible: it will be well to have the Vessel procured got in readiness and the flour (and if possible the Meat) put on board this night. The execution of the whole business should be trusted to the most faithful and active Persons and conducted with the utmost expedition, as very much depends upon it. I am etc.

P. S. Please to forward the Letter to Mr Stevens tonight. I shall have occasion to write to Gen Clinton, by the Vessel which carries the Provisions.[53]

*To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

New Windsor, May 4, 1781.

My dear Marquis: The freedom of your communications is an evidence to me of the sincerety of your attachment; and every fresh instance of this gives pleasure and adds strength to the band which unite us in friendship. In this light I view the intimation contained in your letter of the 23d. Ulto., from Alexandria, respecting the conduct of Mr. Lund Washington.

Some days previous to the receipt of your letter, which only came to my hands yesterday; I received an acct. of this transaction from the Gentn. himself, and immediately wrote, and forwarded, the answer of which the inclosed is a copy. this Letter, which was written in the moment of my obtaining the first intimation of the matter may be considered as a testimony of my disapprobatn. of his conduct; and the transmission of it to you as a proof of my friendship; because I wish you to be assured that no man can condemn the measure more sincerely than I do.

[53] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

A false idea, arising from the consideration of his being my Steward and in that character was more than the trustee and guardian of my property than the representative of my honor has misled his judgment and plunged him into error (upon the appearance of desertion in my Negros, and danger to my buildings) for sure I am, that no man is more firmly opposed to the enemy than he. From a thorough conviction of this, and of his integrity I entrusted every species of my property to his care; without reservation, or fear of his abusing it.

The last paragraph of my letter to him was occasioned by an expression of his fear, that all the Estates convenient to the river would be stripped of their Negros and moveable property.

I am very happy to find that desertion had ceased, and content had taken place in the detachment you commanded. Before this letter can have reached you, you must have taken your ultimate resolution upon the proposal contained in my letters of the 21st. and 22d. of last Month and have made the consequent arrangements. I shall be silent therefore on the subject of them, and only beg, in case you should not return to this Army; and the Papers were not lost with your other Baggage (on which event give me leave to express my concern) that you would permit Mr. Capitaine[54] to furnish me with copies of the drafts, and remarks of the Pilots (taken at Colo Deys) on the entrance of the harbour of New York. It is possible they may be wanted, and I am not able to furnish them without your assistance.

Mrs. Washington and the rest of my (small) family which at present consists only of Tilghman and Humphrey join me in cordial salutations, and with sentiments of the purest esteem etc.

[54] Maj. Pierre Capitaine. He was aide to Lafayette.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 5, 1781.

Dear Sir: I was last evening favored with your Letters of the 3d. and 4th. Instant.

I am pleased to find the Recruits arrive in such Numbers as you mention, and desire only that you will use your discretion entirely, in barracking or encamping the Troops in the best manner possible to preserve their health. Straw will be an essential article upon their first going into Tents.

I have not the least objection, that Colonel Tupper should take on the four Months Pay to the Light Companies of the Massachusetts Line. But I fear the carrying this Money to such a distance from the State where it was emitted, will have an unhappy tendency to depreciate its value, disappoint the expectations of the Troops, and the wishes of the State; however these inconveniencies, I suppose, must be submitted to, in order to prevent greater.

I shall have occasion to write to the Marquis, by Col Tupper, who, I expect, sets out on his Journey immediately.

In your Letter of the 29th of April you enquired, whether it was the intention to comprehend the Convention Troops under the head of Prisoners? in answer to which, I should advise (altho it may not under all circumstances be expedient to consider and exchange them as Prisoners particularly those who left that Corps at an early period) that they should not be continued in the service, unless there are very strong reasons to convince the Officers of their attachment to the Country; and that whenever they are dismissed in any way, the Towns from which they have been sent should be called upon to make good the deficiency.

The Recruits, who prove upon investigation to be Prisoners, may be confined in the Provost at Fishkill, and their Names returned to the Deputy Commissy of Prisoners at that place. I am etc.[55] [MS.H.S.]

To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 5, 1781.

My Dear Marquis: I have received, with exceeding great satisfaction and pleasure your favor of the 18th of April, and am extremely rejoiced to learn, that the spirit of discontent had so intirely subsided and that the practice of desertion would probably be totally stopped, among the Troops under your Command.

The Measure you had taken to obtain, on your own Credit a supply of cloathing and necessities for the Detachment,[56] must entitle you to all their gratitude and affection; and will, at the same time that it endears your Name (if possible still more) to this Country; be an everlasting Monument of your Ardent zeal and attachment to its cause and the establishment of its Independence. For my own part, My Dear Marquis, altho I stood in need of no new proofs of your exertions and sacrifices in the Cause of America; I will confess to you, I shall not be able to express the pleasing sensations I have experi-

[55] In the writing of David Humphreys.

[56] "On My Arrival on this Side of the Susquehana, I Made an order for the troops wherein I Endeavoured to throw a kind of infamy upon desertion, and to improve every particular Affection of theirs. Since that, desertion Has Been bettered . . . the Merchants of Baltimore lend me a Sum of about 2000 pounds which will procure Some Shirts, linnen over alls Shoes, and a few Hatts. the ladies will make up the Shirts and the over alls will Be made By the detachment So that our Soldiers Have a chance of Being a little more Comfortable. the Monney is lent upon My Credit, and I Become a Security for the payment in two Year's time, when By the french laws I may Better dispose of My Estate. But Before that time, I am to use my influence with the french Court, in order to Have as Soon as possible this Sum of Monney *Added* to Any loan Congress will Have Been able to obtain from them."—*Lafayette to Washington,* Apr. 18, 1781. Lafayette's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

enced at your unparalleled and repeated instances of generosity and zeal for the Service, on every occasion. Suffer me only to pursue you with my sincerest wishes that your successes and glory may always be equal to your Merits.

I was troubled to be informed of the loss of your Baggage, but am happy to find that your private and interesting Papers were not with it: Should the Map of the Harbour of New York with remarks made on it by the Pilots, not have been lost, I could wish you would be so obliging as to forward it, [or a copy] to me by some safe conveyance, as it may be eventually advantageous to have it here.

Colonel Tupper (who goes to releive Col Vose) will have the honor to deliver this Letter to you. With every sentiment of affection etc.[57]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 5, 1781.

Dear Sir: Since my Letter to you, of yesterday, in which I mentioned the measure I had taken respecting supplies, informed you of our only resources, and authorized military coertion in cases of extremity; I have received your favor of the 30th. Ulto. with a Postscript of the 1st Inst.

Alarmed at the critical situation of the Garrison of Fort Schuyler, I ordered out of the small pittance in our Magazines, 50 Barrels of Meat and the same quantity of flour, to be transported from this Army, and instantly thrown into that Garrison, but the Commissary reports there are but 34 Bbs of Meat in store. I have directed this number to be sent, and the residue of the 50 Barrels to be made up, from the Fish lately barreled

[57] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

on the River. This supply (the Fish included, or not, as you think proper) you will be pleased to consider as solely designed for the relief of the Garrison of Fort Schuyler, and sacredly to be appropriated to that and no other purpose whatever: For in our present embarrassed circumstances, when we know not from whence the supplies of tomorrow are to be derived, no inferior object could have justified the Measure of stripping this Army of its last Mouthful.

The distresses of the Other Troops in your Department, must be relieved from the Counties of Massachusetts, which are nearest to you. And I cannot doubt but on the spur of the occasion, exertions will be made equal to the exigency. I am etc.

P. S. The mustering of the Troops, should go on thro the Inspector, in the same manner as formerly practiced as nearly as possible. You can obtain Shad to be put up on Contract for the Troops; by giving three Pecks of Salt for a Barrel of clean'd fish, weighing 220 Pounds. You may draw on the Store at Claverack for salt to pay for as well as cure the Fish. The Contracts must be firmly made, faithfully executed and the public Salt not dissipated, to no purpose.[58]

To COLONEL DANIEL BRODHEAD

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 5, 1781.

Dear Sir: Mr. Fowler having in a late letter to the president of Pennsylvania, made several charges against you for mal conduct in your command. The president of the state communicated it to Congress, who have been pleased, thereupon, to direct me to investigate the matter and bring you to trial upon the matters alledged against you. Mr. Fowlers charges having been rather general, I have desired him to specify them, and

[58] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

to furnish you with a Copy of them. You must be sensible that no Court can be constituted at Fort Pitt for the trial of an Officer of your Rank. It must therefore be held at the Army; but as it will be impossible to bring down all the necessary Witnesses, the Judge Advocate General sends by this Conveyance a deputation to the Gentleman usually officiating in that capacity at the post, authorising him to take depositions in the presence of the parties. These, by a Resolve of Congress, are made admissible evidence in Court. When the necessary depositions are finished, you will repair to the Army and take your trial.

You will see the propriety of giving up the command to the Officer next in Rank while this business is transacting. It will take off every objection that can be made against the validity of the depositions, as having been taken under your influence as Commandant. I am &c.[59]

To COLONEL DANIEL BRODHEAD OR OFFICER COMMANDING AT FORT PITT

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 5, 1781.

Sir: Mr. Fowler will put into your hands sundry Charges against Mr. Duncan[60] Dy. Qr. Mr. General at Port Pitt, on which you will have him arrested and brought to trial. The proceedings you will transmit to me. Should Mr. Fowler bring charges against any other persons who may, from their Ranks or stations, be properly tried by the Court which shall be convened; you will likewise arrest and bring them to trial.

Inclosed you have a power for holding a Court. Mr. Fowler has charges also against Colo. Brodhead, who, on account of

[59] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[60] David Duncan. He was assistant deputy quartermaster, Western Department.

his Rank, cannot be tried at Fort Pitt. You will therefore, after filling up the Blank for the name, deliver the inclosed deputation to the Gentleman who usually Officiates as Judge Advocate, and he will take the depositions of the parties on the spot, which will enable a Court Martial with the Army to determine the matter. I am etc.[61]

To ALEXANDER FOWLER

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 5, 1781.

Sir: His Excellency the president of Congress has lately transmitted to me the Copy of a letter from you to the president of Pennsylvania, in which, are a number of charges against Colonel Brodhead and the Deputy Qr. Master General at Fort Pitt for mal conduct, and insinuations against others not named. Congress have thereupon directed me to take measures to have the matter investigated, and the delinquents brought to justice.

You must be sensible that it is as difficult to support as to defend a general charge, and as yours are chiefly of the later nature, I am under the necessity of calling upon you to specify those against the Dy. Qr. Master General or any other persons in the Staff department, and deliver them to the commanding Officer who has my orders to bring them to trial by Court Martial.

There is a necessity of proceeding in another Manner against Colo. Brodhead. It being impossible to hold a Court at Fort Pitt proper for the trial of an Officer of his Rank, it must be done at the Army, and the proofs and defence must be supported principally by depositions taken upon the spot, in presence of the parties, as all the Witnesses cannot be brought

[61] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

down without infinite expense and much inconvenience. The Judge Advocate General sends a deputation to the person usually officiating as Judge Advocate at the post, authorising him to take these depositions. You will therefore specify your Charges against Colo. Brodhead; deliver him a Copy of them and be ready when called upon to make the requisite depositions. When the whole are finished, The Judge Advocate at the post will transmit them to the Judge Advocate General and Colo. Brodhead will be ordered to attend for trial. If you yourself or any other Witnesses can make it convenient to attend it will be well, for depositions should not be made use of but upon necessity. I am &c.[62]

To PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED

May 5, 1781.

[See Washington's letter of May 7, 1781.]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, Saturday, May 5, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

The Honorable the Congress having directed the Board of War to take order on a Letter from the Paymaster General of the 3d. of April last, respecting the extra ration to be drawn in kind by the Officers in the Army.

Agreed, That no charge be made against the officers for such extra ration but that the same be considered as a Gratuity, untill the further order of Congress and that his Excellency the Commander in Chief and the Paymaster General be informed of this opinion of the Board.

[62] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

The Honorable the Congress having by their Resolve of the 17th. of April last appointed John Moylan Esqr. Clothier General of the Army he is to be respected and obeyed as such.

The Honorable the Congress have been pleased by their Resolve of the 26th. of April last to direct that the pay of Captain Lieutenants of Artillery and of Lieutenants and serjeants of Infantry be paid in Bills of the new Emission at the rates fixed for the pay of Officers and non commissioned officers respectively on the 27th. May 1778, any former Resolution of Congress to the contrary hereof notwithstanding.

The Commander in Chief directs that all returns for Arms or accoutrements shall specify the regiments they are for, and the particular purposes for which they are then wanted; and that after such returns are signed by the division Inspector agreeable to the Resolution of Congress of the 25th. of September last they be carried to the Orderly Office to be registered and Countersigned by the Adjutant General previous to issues being made thereon.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 6, 1781.

Dear Sir: Your favor of yesterday has been handed to me. You will be persuaded, that, at the same time, I sympathise sincerely with you, in your illness, I am by no means pleased with the unreasonably long absence of the General Officers, which has rendered your presence with the Army hitherto indispensably necessary.

I have read the Proceedings of the Court Martial, and would have the sentences approved, which you will be pleased to do in your Orders. The Proceedings are returned herewith. I am etc.[63] [MS.H.S.]

[63] In the writing of David Humphreys.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, Sunday, May 6, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

John Powel, soldier in the New Hampshire line who was tried by a General Court martial the 27th. of April and sentenced to suffer death which Sentence was approved and published in Orders the 30th. of April, is ordered to be executed on Friday next the 11th. instant.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN STARK

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 6, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have been favored with your Letter of the 9th of April, am glad your health is such as to permit you to superintend sending off the Recruits from the State, and am fully of opinion you could not be of so essential service in any other way, as by urging the State of New Hampshire to procure and forward her quota of Men and Supplies to the Army.

Having seen and experienced the Evils we have suffered for want of a permanent force, and having yourself been an eye Witness to the distresses of the Army the last Campaign for want of a regular supply of Provisions, I am persuaded you will continue to impress on the Legislature with particular energy, the absolute, indispensable necessity of furnishing Men to compleat their Battalions, and provisions to feed them when in the field.

It is a long, very long interval of time, since we have received any kind of Supplies from New Hampshire. I have written, some days ago, pressingly to the President on the Subject, entreating him, as he regarded the welfare and even existence of the Army, that he would use his utmost exertion to have an

immediate supply of Beef Cattle forwarded on. If this is not done (and the supply regularly kept up every Month) the very worst consequences may be apprehended.

I shall be glad to hear from you on the subject of Recruits and Supplies. And hope that the pleasant season, which is now advancing will greatly tend to your Recovery. I am &c.[64]

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 6, 1781.

Dear Sir: I enclose for your inspection original Letters from Major Gen Heath and Brigadr Genl Clinton,[65] describing in the most forcible terms, the terrible prospect before them, and the inevitable disasters that must ensue, unless provisions are furnished, and that instantly, for the Troops and Garrisons in their respective Departments; when you have read these Letters, you will be pleased to return them to me again. Nothing further, need certainly be said, to enforce the necessity of putting every wheel in motion to hasten the transportation of the salted provisions, on which our sole dependence for immediate relief must be placed: From the measures which had been taken, and the representations of Mr. Pomeroy, I expected nearly or quite all the provisions on the West side of Connecticut River would have been forwarded or forwarding on before this time; only a few hundred Barrels have yet arrived; and I am not able to learn, in what state the transportation now is, or what our prospects from that quarter are. Should your information respecting this supply, neither be so particular or favorable as to remove all our fears on the Subject; I think it

[64] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

[65] Letters from Heath (May 6) and from Clinton (May 4). The originals are in the *Washington Papers.*

will be adviseable to send instantly an able and active Officer from Your Department, to make use of the spur of the occasion to carry the measure of transportation already projected, rapidly and fully into execution. I am etc.

P. S. If in addition to the money of the New Emission you have recd. a few thousd Dollars of the Old would be of any service in the transportation, I could procure them on my own credit for you.[66]

ANSWERS TO COLONEL MENONVILLE[67]

New Windsor, May 6, 1781.

1st. General Washington presumes that Congress has taken measure for the Completion of the Contract entered into by Doctor Franklin, but having received no particular information on the subject, he cannot speak with certainty upon the mode which will be adopted to procure the provision. He would therefore advise Colo. Menonville to proceed to Philada. and make his application to Congress thro' His Excellency the president to whom General Washington will give him letters of introduction.

2d. Colonel Menonville may be assured that it is the earnest wish of General Washington to see the French Army supplied with every necessary which this Country affords, and that all the means in his power shall be exerted towards that end; but he begs Colo. Menonville to understand that no more of the Resources of the Country are at his disposal than what have been demanded of the several States for the support of the

[66] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

[67] "Colo. Menonville, one of the Adjutt. Generals in the French Army, came to Head Quarters by order of Count de Rochambeau to make arrangements for supplying the Troops of His Most Christian Majesty with certain provisions contracted for by Doctr. Franklin. This demand, tho' immediate compliance was not insisted upon, comports illy with our circumstances; and is exceedingly embarrassing."—*Washington's Diary*, May 6, 1781.

American Army, and that as the provisions thus put under his direction are not more than sufficient for [the purpose here mentioned it would be imprudent in him to] promise Colo. Menonville any part of such magazines on account of Doctor Franklin's Contract. There is no doubt [however] but the Country can afford an ample supply both for the American and French Troops, even should the latter be increased to the height of our expectations. The *only* difficulty lies in finding means of drawing it out of the hands of the people. But as the Intendant of the French Army is furnished with the means there can be little doubt of his finding a sufficient quantity of Meat in the Eastern States and of Flour in the Middle and southern (except North and south Carolina which have been much ravaged by the War) to support any force which will probably be employed in America. [and with respect to Corn. There is no scarcity, I believe of this article in any State North of Carolina; Virginia and Maryland abound in it, and have no market for it; there posts being shut up by the Enemys cruisers.]

The plan of Campaign being [contigent] it is impossible for General Washington [in the prest. momt.] to advise [with precision] any particular place for the establishment of the Ground Magazines. Thus much he can say in general: That the Flour, which must be principally drawn from Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia should be collected as near to Navigable Water as will be consistent with its safety from the attacks of the small Vessels and parties of the enemy which very much infest Chesapeak and Delaware Bays. What Flour can be procured in the State of New York and in the *Western parts* of Connecticut and Massachusetts may be safety deposited at any place upon the North River above [West point].

The Meat which will be consumed during the Campaign will be chiefly fresh and as the Cattle will be driven on foot to the Army, they will be sent in Weekly in numbers equal to the consumption.[68]

To JOHN PIERCE

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 6, 1781.

Sir: As there is a sum of Money sent on from the Eastern States for the payment of the Detachments of their Lines, under the Command of the Marquis De la Fayette, I wish provision could be made to forward two or three Months pay, in specie value, for the Company of Colonel Hazen's Regt. on that Command. You will consider yourself authorised hereby, to make application for the same.

Lieut. Colonel Barber having been sent from the Marquis De la Fayette, to negotiate the affairs of the Detachment of the Jersey line; it is to be presumed that State has, or will advance Money for their payment, in which case, the Company from Col Hazens Regt. will be the only one unprovided for; and the sum necessary for the purpose being inconsiderable, I hope it may be procured and sent on by Col Tupper, who will deliver you this Letter. I am etc.[69]

To PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 5[–7], 1781.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's favor of the 24th. of April inclosing a remonstrance of Colonel Procter and the Officers of his Regt. against the promotion of Captain

[68] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

[69] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

Eustace[70] to a Majority in it, and the late annexation of Capt. Simonds. I am not a little surprised to see Field Officers, who certainly are acquainted with the principles of promotion which have been understood and practiced upon for more than two years, in the lines of Artillery and Cavalry joining their subordinate Officers in complaints, which, upon investigation, will be found groundless: But I am happy in addressing myself upon this occasion to your Excellency, who having been upon the several Committees of Arrangement in the year 1778, must recollect the various modes of promotion which were then talked of, and the reasons which led to the final adoption of the present System at the White plains.

The Error, which Colo. procter and his Officers is in, lies in supposing that their Regiment, previous to the arrangement of October the 3d. 1780, belonged to any particular State. It is true pennsylvania had credit for them as part of her quota, but was not considered as having a right to interpose in making new appointments or promotions after they were annexed to the Continent in 1777.

The Resolves of Sept. 16th. 1776 and November 24th 1778 which they quote relate merely to the lines of Infantry belonging to the several States, and as an indubitable proof of this, the several States, tho' extremely tenacious of their rights of making new appointments and conferring promotions in their lines of Infantry, have never in one single instance attempted an interference in those of Artillery or Cavalry, which have been understood to be lines belonging to the Continent at large.

If your Excellency will be pleased, for your further satisfaction, to refer to the Resolve of the 24th. Novem. 1778 founded upon the report of the Committee of Arrangement at White

[70] Maj. Benjamin Eustis (Eustace), of the Fourth Continental Artillery. He died in October, 1781.

plains, you will find throughout the whole of it, a distinction made between the Lines of States which were the Infantry and the Lines of Cavalry and Artillery.

The Gentlemen are pleased to observe that the promotion of Captain Eustace to the Majority of their Regiment was partial and the only instance which has happened in the line of Artillery during the War. They will, upon reflection, find that it is the only instance which could possibly have happened. Major Forrest succeeded to the Lieutenant Colonelcy by the death of Colo. Stroboch[71] and Capt. Eustace as eldest Captain in the line of Artillery to the vacant Majority. There have been no other occasions for promotions of Field Officers in the line of Artillery or they would have taken place in the same way, upon the same principles. This Rule has been so invariably pursued in the line of Cavalry, which is upon the same footing with that of Artillery, that the Officers succeeding to Vacancies have come and gone from one extremity of the Continent to the other to take their new Commands.

The annexation of Capt. Simonds with his Company and Capt. Porter with his to Colo. procters Regiment was a matter of necessity, and done in consequence of the new arrangement of the Army by the Resolve of the 3d. October 1780. Those Companies, tho' originally raised in Pennsylvania, had been annexed to Colo. Lambs Battalion, and Captain Simonds had, in course of promotion, succeeded to the Vacancy occasioned by the Resignation of Capt. Lee.[72] Lambs Regiment had by these means two Companies more than the arrangement allowed and procters two less, it was certainly then proper to transfer Porter and Simonds to the latter, more especially as

[71] Lieut. Col. John Martin Strobagh (Stroboch), of the Fourth Continental Artillery. He died in December, 1778.

[72] Capt. James Lee, of the Second Continental Artillery. He had resigned in December, 1779.

their Companies had been, as I before mentioned, raised in Pennsylvania. But it could not be supposed that Capt. Simonds was to be deprived of his rank because he was not a Pennsylvanian. The Officers of Colo. Lambs Battalion who are New Yorkers might with equal justice say that all those of Connecticut were *thrust* in upon them (to use the remonstrants own Word) when that Regiment was allotted to the state of New York.

After the Regiments of Cavalry and Artillery had been by the Resolve of the 3d. of October last allotted to particular States, it became a doubt whether the Rules of promotion which had before governed could with propriety be longer practiced under. I therefore wrote to Congress upon the subject, and that, with several other Regulations respecting Rank, is now under their consideration; but whatever may be their determination it cannot effect former promotions.

I cannot conclude this subject, without remarking that Colo. procter, upon the 9th. of April, sent in his resignation to me, alledging that the situation of his private Affairs obliged him to quit the service. He need not then upon the 19th. have signed a remonstrance and accompanied it with a threat that he would resign if the prayer of it was not granted.

The representation which Colo. Blaine made to me of the Council having ordered the state Agent to send no more supplies to the Army, was founded upon a letter which he had received from his deputy in Philada. That I might not misapprehend a matter which appeared to me of a very singular nature, I called upon Colo. Blaine for an official account in writing, with which he furnished me, and which I transmitted to Congress; I also transmitted the accounts respecting Fort Pitt as I received them from Colo. Brodhead, and cannot

therefore be answerable for any misrepresentations of his. Now I am upon the subject of provisions I beg leave to address myself most seriously to your Excellency and the Council upon our present situation in respect to Flour, and to point out the consequences which must ensue if we are not liberally supplied by the state with that Article, I must take the liberty of premising, that by the information I have received from the Commissary General, there is a very great deficiency of the quotas required by the requisitions of 1779 and 1780. There are, by accounts, about two thousand Barrels between this place and Trenton. I do not learn that there are any quantities at the places of deposits within the State. By the transference of so considerable a part of the War to the southward, the supplies of Maryland and Virginia must be turned towards that quarter. Jersey which has been the principle residence of the Army for several Campaigns has furnished such quantities of Hay and Grain Forage and oftentimes Meat in the Hour of distress, that we cannot expect a regular supply of the specific Articles demanded of her in addition to what is taken by impress and other Means. New York, I may say with truth, hath exhausted her Credit and resources, not that there is not Flour yet remaining, but Government has strained their exertions to that height, that the people have been almost driven to open resistance: Indeed they are under very peculiar circumstances; totally deprived of Commerce, and the most valuable parts of their state in the hands of the enemy. Had it not been for a most vigorous step which Governor Clinton ventured to take in the fore part of the Winter, the Army must have disbanded for want of Bread, as our Magazines were exhausted and transportation by land was impracticable had there been any thing to act upon. He seized several hundred Barrels in the hands

of private Merchants which they had purchased up to exchange for other Articles. The New England States as they do not produce Flour are called upon for none. Our dependance must then be upon Delaware and Pennsylvania. Their supplies are ample and means must be found to draw them out, or the Army must disband, as there is no other Resource. In the present embarrassed state of Finance little can be expected from the operation of paper Money. Specific demands should therefore, in my opinion, be made upon the people, and if they do not comply with them, they cannot complain of compulsory measures. I would not be understood to dictate to your Excellency and the Council the means they ought to pursue; but I think it a duty which I owe the public and it is a liberty which I daily take with the States which furnish the different kinds of supplies for the Army to call upon them in the most pointed manner for the Articles in which they are deficient, and to tell them without reserve what must be the consequence of a non compliance with the requisitions made upon them. I have the honor etc.

P S 7th. By Letters just received from Brig. Genl. Clinton who commands at Albany I am very apprehensive that the important post of Fort Schuyler will be abandoned for want of provision. To prevent this if possible I have sent off every Barrel of Beef in the Magazines, (being only 34) and shall trust to contingencies for a supply here. Of 131 Barrels of Flour I am sending off 100. I mention these things to your Excellency, to convince you of the necessity of making the exertions I have recommended, and to shew the dreadful consequences which must follow a non compliance. I have written as pressingly to the Eastern States for a supply of Meat as I have done to you for that of Flour.[73]

[73] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 7, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have received your favors of the 12th: of April from Portsmouth, and 19th: from Boston.

Business of a very urgent public nature will oblige me to send General Heath immediately to the Eastern States.[74] I am therefore under the necessity of desiring your Return as speedily as possible to take the command at West point, which, with all its dependencies, will be left with only one Brigadier. I am etc.[75]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 7, 1781.

Dear Sir: Your Letter of the 4th. Instant, by Express, was received in the course of the last night: by Mine of the 5th. and 6th. you will already have been made acquainted, with the state of our Magazines, the partial aid we were then able to afford, and the measures, I advised, to be pursued: since which no provision of the Meat kind has been received; whenever any quantity arrives, you may depend upon having a full proportion of it, being determined to share our last morsel with you, and support your Posts (if possible) at all hazards and extremities. in the interim, I have directed to be sent to your Orders, 100 Barrels of flour, out of 131, which is the whole we have in our Magazine.

[74] See Washington's letter to Maj. Gen. William Heath, May 9, 1781, *post*.

[75] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

On May 8 Washington wrote a brief note to Brig. Gen. Jedidiah Huntington: "Five Months, this day, having elapsed, since you had permission to visit your friends; I find myself under the indispensable necessity of calling your attention again to your Command. I must request therefore You will be pleased to repair to the Army as soon as may be, after the receipt of this Letter." This draft is in the *Waashington Papers*.

On May 9 Washington wrote to Brig. Gen. John Glover: "As some of the Recruits begin to arrive . . . an as the season for opening the Campaign is fast approaching . . . you will commence your return to the Army, as soon as it is possible to be done, after the receipt of this Letter." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

Deeply sensible of the distresses of the Troops in your Department, and apprehensive of the serious consequences of a defection, and the loss of the Posts on the frontier. I entreat you to be persuaded, that I am heartily disposed to give every assistance, in my power, for your relief. It is true, I had entertained hopes, that the States would effectually second my wishes and endeavours; and I will not despair of their yet furnishing the necessary supplies, before it is too late. To enforce the necessity of this, in the most pointed and explicit manner, it is proposed that Major General Heath himself, should set out instantly for the Eastern States; he will have it particularly in charge, to represent the critical state of the Garrison of Fort Schuyler, together with the sufferings of the Troops on the frontier, and make requisitions for their immediate support and relief. I should therefore advise, that the Garrison of Fort Schuyler should hold out to the last extremity; and I have no doubt of your still continuing, to use your unremitting exertions, thro' every possible difficulty, and embarrassment, to succour that Garrison, and to avert the disasters and calamities we have but too much reason to apprehend, from the present temper of the Troops, and complexion of our affairs in that quarter.

Under these circumstances, should the worst evils take place, that may be dreaded, you will have the pleasing consiousness of having faithfully performed your duty to the public and may rely upon the entire approbation and esteem of Dear Sir etc.[76]

[M. L.]

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 7, 1781.

Dr. Sr: Since I wrote to you, the last evening, respecting the transportation of the salted Provisions, I have recd Letters from

[76] In the writing of David Humphreys.

Genl. and Govr. Clinton, informing that the Troops on the frontier are on the point of Mutinying and the Garrison of Fort Schuyler of abandoning that Post, for want of Provisions of every kind; in consequence of which I have thought proper to have 100 Barrels of flour forwarded to Albany (which you will be pleased to have transported accordingly). The total want of Meat was the sole reason, why I have not sent a quantity of that article also. As soon as any arrives and can possibly be spared, The Troops in that quarter must be supplied with a proportion of it; this you will observe, makes the transportation of the whole of the salted provisions, on the West side of Connecticut River immediately and indispensably necessary, and as this seems to exceed the Commission of Col Hughs, it will require some farther attention.

I do not mention any thing further about the flour on the Communication from Pennsylvania, because I suppose the arrangements are all properly made, and the business in the best train of execution. I am etc.[77]

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 7, 1781.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's favors of the 30th. of April and 4th. of this Month. The first was delivered to me by Colo. Menonville to whom I refer you for what has passed between us on the subject of his mission.

I have received no particular intelligence from New York of a later date than that of the 29th. ulto. which has been communicated to your Excellency.

I very sincerely wish success to the enterprise which the Chevr. des Touche has in contemplation.

[77] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

Inclosed your Excellency will find a Warrant from the Quarter Master General appointing Colo. Champlin Barrack Master to the French Army.

I have taken the liberty to send under this cover, a letter for Governor Hancock[78] which incloses one for Major Genl. Howe. Should that Gentleman be in Newport or providence you will oblige me by directing the letter to be delivered to him and destroying the Governors. Should he be in neither of these places you will be pleased to seal the Governors and forward it to Boston with the inclosure.

The importance of the letter for Genl. Howe and the uncertainty of the place which he will be at, must be an excuse for my giving your Excellency the extraordinary trouble.

Your packet for the Chevr. de la Luzerne shall be safely and expeditiously forwarded. I have the Honor etc.[79]

*To CHEVALIER DE CHASTELLUX

New Windsor, May 7, 1781.

Dear Sir: Permit me, on this first occasion of writing to you, to begin my letter with congratulations on your recovered health, and I offer them sincerely.

Colo. Menonville put into my hands two days since, your favor of the 29th. Ulto.[80] If my inclination was seconded by the means, I shou'd not fail to treat this Gentleman as the friend of my friend; and if it is not in my power to comply with his wishes on the score of provisions, I will deal with him candidly by communicating the causes.

I am impressed with too high a sense of the abilities and candor of the Chevr. Chartellus, to conceive that he is capable

[78] The draft of this brief letter to Hancock (May 7) is in the *Washington Papers.*
[79] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[80] Not now found in the *Washington Papers.*

of creating false hopes; his communications therefore of the West India intelligence, comes with merited force and I would to God it were in my power to make the proper advantages of it! but if you can recollect a private conversation which I had with you in the Count de Rochambeau's chamber, you will be perswaded it is not; especially when I add that the want of wch I then complaind exists in much greater force than it did at that moment; but such preparations as can be made, I will make for the events you allude to. The candid world, and well informed Officer, will expect no more. May you participate in those blessings you have invoked heaven for me, and may you live to see a happy termn. of a struggle which was begun and has been continued for the purpose of rescuing America from impending Slavery, and securing to its Inhabitants their indubitable rights in which you bear a conspicuous part, is the ardent wish of Dr. Sir etc.

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 7, 1781.

Dr. Sir: I had the honor to receive last night your Excellency's letter of the same date.

In consequence of Brigadr. General Clinton's information of the 30th. Ulto. I instantly ordered 50 Barrels of flour, and 34 of Meat (being every barrel of the latter we had on hand) to be sent to Albany; for a partial relief of the Garrison of Fort Schuyler. I know it was very inadequate, but it was our all. Since which not a Barrel of Salted Provision has arrived.

I have now directed 100 Barrels of flour, (out of 131 which is our whole Magazine) to be immediately transported to Albany. This supply, shall be followed by another of Meat, if any quantity should come in from the Eastward; in the mean time

I have written, some days since to Genl Clinton to draw (by Military coercion if necessary) whatever supplies have been collected for the Continent, from all the Counties of Massachusetts most contiguous to him. I have also impowered him to procure fish by exchanging salt for them. Whatever more within the limits of my ability can be suggested or done for the security of Fort Schuyler and the protection of the frontier, shall be most seriously attended to, and strenuously attempted by, Your etc.

P. S. I shall be extremely happy to see you; in order to converse freely on the subject of the Troops and Frontiers of this State.[81]

*ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS OF COLONEL MENONVILLE[82]

New Windsor, May 7, 1781.

As nothing can be more consonant to General Washington's wishes than to give all the satisfaction in his power to Colo. Menonville, he will answer the foregoing questions with willingness and Candor. to the first he begs leave to observe 1st. That he thinks it unsafe (in our circumstances) to form large magazines in the State of New Jersey on acct. of its proximity to the enemys principal force at New York, and our want of Troops to cover and secure them. Because a naval superiority on our side, would render them in a very great degree unnecessary in that State as water transportation wou'd, in that event, be more convenient and less expensive than that by land, and because Philadelphia, supposing this superiority should not be obtained, wd. be much safer, and almost as convenient as any place in Jersey for magazine. Trenton might do for a small

[81] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.
[82] Menonville's questions are copied by Washington ahead of these "Answers."

Magazine, a large one would be too great a temptation of the enemy for the convenience of it to be a counterpoise for the risk.

2d. Genl. Washington understands this article to mean nothing more, than an exchange of provisions when the conveniency of the two Armies can be promoted by a reciprocal saving of transportation (because whatever the American Commissary may have upon the North River, is at all times convenient if not essential for the Garrison at West point). In this view of the matter, there can be no possible objection on the part of General Washington to the exchange of provn., and it will ever be his wish to make things as agreeable as possible to his Excellency Genl. Rochambeau and the French Army under his orders.

3d. The Fall of the year being the usual Season for Salting Meat the proposition contained in this article cannot, it is apprehended, be complied with; especially as there is a scarcity of Beef Cattle in the Middle States.

4th. This article Genl. Washington can only speak to in part. Teams, no doubt, may be had from Pensylvania and other States without inconvenience, or derangement of the plans of the American Q. Master Genl; but how far the mode proposed by Colo. Menonville to pay for them, can be adopted by Congress, they alone can determine.

*ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS OF COLONEL MENONVILLE

New Windsor, May 8, 1781.

In remarking upon the 1st. head General Washington would wish Colo Menonville to observe that he does not think Philadelphia ought to be made the *immediate general* deposit of the Flour &ca. of Virginia and Maryland but of Pensylvania

and Delaware *only*. He mentioned that place as being ultimately preferable supposing an operation in this quarter, to any in Jersey as the provision can be brought from thence to Trenton by an easy and Cheap water transportation. In the meantime of permitting the flour and Corn of Virginia and Maryland particularly to remain within those States untill the plan of Campaign is more fully determined upon.

General Washington approves of the intention of Colo. Menonville contained in the 2d 3d. 4th. and 5th. heads. And he will be happy in furnishing him with Letters for the President of Congress whenever the Weather and his own inclination will permit him to prosecute his journey to Philadelphia.[83]

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 8, 1781.

Dear Sir: Distressed beyond expression, at the present situation and future prospect of the Army, with regard to provisions; and convinced with you, that, unless an immediate and regular supply can be obtained, the Most dangerous consequences are, to be apprehended, I have determined to make one great effort more, on the subject. And must request that you will second and enforce my representations to, and requisitions

[83] In the British Museum (*Addl. Ms.* 22130, fol. 16) is the following text, said to be an A. L. S. of Washington and indorsed "May 9, 1781", a transcript of which is in the Library of Congress: "As there is a great deficiency of such kind of Artillery as Colo. Menonville applies for, at the disposal of General Washington, he has it not in his power to do more, than to communicate the wishes of His Excelly. Count de Rochambeau (as they are expressed by Colo. Menonville) to Congress; from whom he is persuaded Eight or ten pieces of Cannon said to be imported for the 70 Gun ship at Portsmouth may be had if they are actually arrived and Congress should despair of fitting that Vessel for Sea. In the meantime, it lies with the Count de Rochambeau (if he wishes to avoid delay) to make application to an individual state for the number of Guns he may want for the defences of Rhode Island; and as far as it is in General Washingtons power to facilitate the loan of them he will tho' candor obliges him to add, that some time ago he made an ineffectual application himself to the State of Massachusetts for some of the Guns belonging to the Somerset Man of War (which stranded on Cape Cod) when they were much wanted to render the Post at West point more defensible."

upon the New England States, by your personal application to the several Executives, and even Assemblies, (if sitting, as I suppose they will be, in the course of this Month).

From Your intimate knowledge of our embarrassed and distressed Circumstances, and your great personal influence with the Eastern States, I am induced to commit the execution of this interesting and important business to you, And wish you to set out on this Mission, as early as may be convenient. I am &c.[84]

[MS. H. S.]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 8, 1781.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's favors of the 26th: and 29th: ulto. with the inclosures to which you refer. They shall be duly attended to.

Under cover of the letter of the 26th. is one from General Gates to Congress, indorsed by the Secretary "Ordered to be transmitted to the Commander in Chief." without any particular directions respecting the subject of it. Congress have been informed of the instructions which had been given to General Greene relative to bringing on the enquiry upon General Gates as early as circumstances would admit, and they have been advised that it was deemed impracticable at the time to hold a Court at the southern Army for the reasons given to General Greene by the Board of General and Field Officers consulted upon the occasion. General Gates has also been furnished with their Reasons. There remain but two methods of determining the matter speedily, in a military way; directing General Greene to order a Court of Enquiry immediately and at all events, or taking depositions at the Southward and bringing them before a Court in this Army.

[84] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

I am sorry that I am obliged so often to wound the feelings of Congress with accounts of our distressed situation on the score of provisions, but duty calls upon me to represent what it is not in my power by my utmost exertions, to prevent.

Your Excellency will perceive, by Copies of letters from General Heath of the 6th. instant and from Brigr. Genl. Clinton of the 30th: of April and 4th. instant, to what an alarming situation we are reduced at these posts and upon the Northern Frontier. Upon the receipt of Genl. Clintons letter of the 30th: ulto, I, upon the 5th:, sent off 34 Barrels of Beef, which was every ounce in the Magazine and 50 Barrels of Flour to Albany. I am now, upon receiving the letter of the 4th: sending off 100 out of 131 Barrels in the Magazine. Of Meat I have not a Barrel to send. The Quarter Master is unable to transport what is at the distant Magazines, and the States neither do that, or send in Beef Cattle agreeable to requisition.

I have written most pressingly to the President of Pennsylvania for a supply of Flour, and that nothing may be left unessayed on my part, I am going to send Major General Heath to the Eastern States purposely to represent our distresses for Meat in their true Colours, and to point out to them the inevitable consequences of a failure in the noncompliance with the requisitions made upon them. Whether this will have any better effect than my frequent applications by letter, I cannot say; but of this I am certain, that if there is not a very great and sudden change of measures it will be next to impossible to keep the Army together. To add to our present embarrassments, application has just been made to me by Colonel Menonville, who is sent forward by Count Rochambeau, to know in what manner it will be most convenient to us to make payment for a very large quantity of provisions, with which, Doctor Franklin, in behalf of the United States, has contracted to

supply the French Army. Colonel Menonvilles instructions have reference to Resolves of Congress and letters which have passed between your Excellency and Count Rochambeau on the Subject, but as I am totally a stranger to the whole transaction, I have been under the necessity of referring him to Congress, and have taken the liberty to give him letters of introduction to your Excellency. As Colonel Menonville was very pressing with me to know whether I could give him any assurances of the provision being furnished, and at what places it would be most proper to deposit it, I would only tell him, that none of what had been required of the States for the subsistence of the Army could possibly be spared, because, the requisitions, were they fully complied with, would not be more than adequate to our own wants. I gave him my opinion as to the proper places of deposit, in as particular a manner as the uncertainty of our plan of operations would admit.

Colo. Menonville is likewise charged by the Count Rochambeau, to sollicit some heavy Iron Cannon for the Works at Newport, in place of the Brass Battering Cannon which are at present in them, and which there will be a necessity of removing should the Army remove. When I told him that I knew of none belonging to the Continent but what were in use, he informed me that he understood that there were some in New Hampshire which had been imported for the 74 Gun Ship now upon the Stocks. Upon this, I have promised him to mention the matter to Congress, and to recommend a compliance with his request, if the Cannon should be there, and can be spared without inconvenience. I have the Honor etc.[85]

[85] In the writing of Tench Tilghman. The letter was read in Congress on May 14 and referred to John Sullivan, James Mitchell Varnum, and Joseph Montgomery.

On May 15 Congress ordered the Board of Admiralty to deliver to Washington's order 10 of the heavy cannon intended for the 74 gun ship, then building at Portsmouth, and referred the remainder of Washington's letter to a further committee of Theodorick Bland, Daniel Carroll, and John Witherspoon.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, Tuesday, May 8, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

As the badness of the weather prevented the inspection of the first brigades of Massachusett and Connecticut yesterday they will be inspected on thursday; the second brigades of Massachusett and Connecticut on saturday, and the third Massachusett and Stark's brigades on Monday next; the time and manner of inspection to be the same as already pointed out.

Colonel Hazen's regiment to be held in readiness for Inspection on Tuesday 15th. their returns to be the same as directed for the other regiments.

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 8, 1781.

Gentlemen: I have been honored with your favors of the 30th. of April and 1st. Instant. After a conference with Mr. Cornel I ordered as much Cloathing as could possibly be spared from hence to be immediately forwarded to the southward with one thousand Muskets and one thousand Cartouch Boxes which appeared as many as could be sent from hence upon a comparison of our own probable wants with our stock on hand. Our prospects on account of lead are alarming indeed. It will be impossible to send any more from hence than what is contained in the ready made Cartridges. I know not whether any of the States have any quantity in their private Magazines, but I think enquiry should be made and a loan obtained, if practicable.

The Artillery at present at the Southward and what is upon the way, appears to me fully sufficient.

Mr. Moylan is making up the Accounts of the late Cloathier, which he tells me will be finished in a few days, he then proposes to repair to Philada.

I am of the same opinion with the Board respecting the construction of the Resolve of the 3d. October 1780. It would defeat the end proposed by the abolition of the Rank of full Colonels in the Army were they suffered to be still created in the Regiments of Artillery and Cavalry. If Colo. Carringtons Commission of Lieut. Col. Commandant to the 4th. Regt. of Artillery has not yet been sent to him I would wish it to be delayed until some Regulations respecting the mode of promotion in the Artillery and Cavalry which are now before Congress shall have been determined upon. For the same reason I think the promotion of the 2d. Major to the 1st. Regt. of Cavalry had best be delayed also. I have the honor etc.[86]

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 9, 1781.

Dear Sir: You will be pleased to proceed immediately to the several Eastern States, with the dispatches, addressed to the Governors of Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts Bay, and the President of New Hampshire, on the subject of supplies for the Army. The present critical and alarming situation of our Troops and Garrisons for the want of provision, is (from the nature of your command) so perfectly known to you: and your personal influence with the New England States is so considerable, that I could not hesitate to commit to

[86] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

A memorandum of the amount of clothing sent to the southward is entered at the close of the letter.

On May 8 Washington wrote a brief letter to Chevalier de Béville, informing him that the Quartermaster General had been authorized to appoint Col. [Jabez] Champlin, barrack master general to the French Army. This draft is in the *Washington Papers.*

you, a *Negotiation*: on the success of which, the very existence of the Army depends.

The great objects of your attention and mission are 1st. an immediate supply of Beef Cattle. 2ndly. the transportation of all the salted provisions, in the Western parts of Connecticut and Massachusetts and 3rdly. the establishment of a *regular, systematic, effectual Plan,* for feeding the Army through the Campaign. Unless the two former are effected, the Garrison of Fort Schuyler must inevitably, that of West point may probably *fall,* and the whole Army be disbanded. Without the latter, the same perplexing wants, irregularities and distress, which we have so often experienced will incessantly occur, with eventual far greater evils, if not final ruin.

With regard to the particular mode of obtaining, and transporting supplies, I will not presume to dictate; but something must now be attempted on the spurr of the occasasion; and I would suggest, whether it would not be expedient, for a Committee from the several States (consisting of a few active sensible men) to meet at some convenient place, in order to make out upon a uniform and great scale, all the arrangements respecting supplies and transportation for the Campaign; in the mean time, to avoid the impending dissolution of the Army: the States must individually comply precisely with the requisitions of the Quarter Master and Commissary upon them.

As the salted provision, which has been put up for the Public in the Eastern States, (except in the Western parts of Connecticut and Massachusetts) cannot at present be transported to the Army, you will obtain *accurate official returns* of the quantity that has been procured in the respective States, at what places, and in whose charge it actually is; and if it should not all be collected and lodged in the Deposits that have been

pointed out: you will urge this immediately to be done, and that the provision should be repacked, stored and taken care of, in such a manner as to prevent the hazard of its being tainted or lost by the approaching hot season.

I omit entering into the detail of particulars, which it may be necessary to state to the respective Executives (or Legislatures, if sitting) to enforce the present requisition: because you are as well acquainted with the circumstances of our distress, the prospects before us, and the only resources from whence we can derive relief, as it is possible for you to be. Previous to your departure, you will obtain from the Quarter Master General and Commissary with the Army the proper Estimates of supplies and transportation to be required of the several States, together with all the light and information, concerning their Departments, which may be requisite to transact the business committed to you.

After having delivered the Dispatches with which you are charged, and made such farther representation as you may judge necessary: you will not cease your applications and importunities, untill you are informed officially,[87] whether effectual measures are or will be taken to prevent the Army from starving and disbanding; what supplies in general and particularly of *Beef Cattle* may certainly be depended upon, to be delivered at fixed regular periods (monthly, or weekly) at the Army during the whole Campaign. When you shall have seen this business put upon the surest footing, and in the best train of execution (which you will endeavour to have effected as early as possible) you will be pleased to report to me without delay, the success of your proceedings.

I heartily wish you success and a pleasant Journey: and am etc.

[87]At this point the draft has: "in the most decisive, clear and explicit manner."

P. S. I wish attention may be paid, to learn what quantity of Rum is in Store, at what Places and in what manner it may be forwarded. In transportation the Arrangements should be made with the States, so as to have the Articles brought entirely thro to the Army without having them stoped on the Road. You will also be pleased to urge the forwarding of the summer Cloathing.[88] [MS. H. S.]

To EBENEZER HAZARD[89]

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 9, 1781.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 24th. of April. I immediately after the accident happened to the post in the Clove, I changed the Route, and he now travels by the way of Warwick to Morris Town, which is but a few Miles further about, and upon a Road which is as safe as any in this part of the Country can be.

It would be impossible for me, was the occasion ever so urgent, to send escorts of Horse with the Mails as you propose. In the first place, I have not the Horse, and if I had, I could not find them subsistence. It is with difficulty I keep two orderly Dragoons at Head Quarters. I am etc.[90]

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 10, 1781.

Dear Sir: Under the present circumstances of transportation from Connecticut, I should advise that Mr. Pomeroy should be sent immediately back to the several Towns, to announce the Distresses of the Army, for want of that provision, the

[88] In the writing of George Augustine Washington; the P. S. is in that of David Humphreys.

[89] Postmaster General of the United States, then at Jamaica Plains, near Boston.

[90] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

certainty of payment for the transportation and the approach of a Military force to carry into execution the impress of the Civil Magistrate. While this is doing, the parties from Danbury and Hazens Regt. may be detached to be employed in the manner you propose, for that purpose. It will be best to use great prudence in the execution of this business, which has now become indispensably necessary and to send to the nearest Towns first: before this measure can have its operation in the remoter parts, I hope government will take the matter up with energy, in consequence of General Heath's representation, who sets out tomorrow for the Eastern States to settle with them the arrangement of transportation and supplies for the Campaign. He will require all the information that may be necessary from your Departt. and that of the Commissy. on the Subject, previous to his journey. I am &c.[91]

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, May 10, 1781.

Dear Sir: His Excellency very much approves your plan of bringing down the shad daily, only taking care to give each Cargo as much salt as will secure them against a passage longer than the common calculation.

The Magazine at West point is in a most deplorable condition for want of a covering of Boards. The last storm has damaged the Ammunition considerably and now the Water has found its way in, every little Rain will be hurtful. It will take about 200 Boards to cover the Magazine. If they cannot be procured by any other Means the General will grant an impress. You will be pleased to see as soon as possible what can be done in it. I am &c.[92]

[91] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys, who has entered at the bottom of the letter: "N. B. Orders were given for the Detachments."

[92] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "T. Tilghman."

CIRCULAR TO THE NEW ENGLAND STATES

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 10, 1781.

Sir: Major General Heath, [second in Command, and an Officer] whose [high rank] and consideration entitle him to very particular notice and attention, is prevailed upon to proceed to the several Eastern States, to represent the present distresses of the Army for want of provision, and the consequences which must inevitably ensue, unless a more regular system, and more vigorous measures for affording supplies are speedily adopted.

From the Post of Saratoga to that of Dobbs Ferry inclusive, I believe there is not (by the Returns and Reports I have received) at this moment, one day's supply of Meat on hand. Our whole dependence for this Article is on the Eastern States: their resources of it, I am persuaded are ample, to request and urge that they may be drawn forth regularly, and to be informed with precision and certainty what may absolutely be depended upon thro' the Campaign, are the object of this application.

I have already made representations to the States of the want of Provisions, the distress of the Army, and the innumerable embarrassments we have suffered in consequence, not merely once or twice, but have reiterated them over and over again. I have struggled to the utmost of my ability, to keep the Army together; but all will be in vain, without the effectual assistance of the States. I have now only to repeat the alternative, which has been so often urged: that Supplies, particularly of *Beef Cattle* must be speedily and regularly provided, or our Posts cannot be maintained or the Army kept in the Field much longer.

[I intreat that this representation may be received in the serious light it is meant and deserves, or that I may stand exculpated from the dreadful consequences which must otherwise inevitably follow in a very short time.]

I enter not into the detail of matters, as General Heath, will be able to give Your Excellency every necessary information, as well as lay the proper Estimates of supplies for the Campaign before you. I have the honor etc.[93]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, Friday, May 11, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

The Honorable the Congress have been pleased to make the following Appointment:

By the United States in Congress Assembled,
March 3d, 1781.

Ordered,

That Dr. James Craik, chief hospital physician and surgeon, be, and he is hereby appointed chief physician and surgeon of the army, in the room of Dr. J. Cochran, elected director of the hospital.

The Companies of Light Infantry with Major General the Marquis de la Fayette are to be completed from their respective regiments so far as the deficiencies are known.

The men formerly belonging to these companies (who were absent when they marched) or others of a similar description to be sent on this service; these men to be marched under the direction of the officers who are going to join the Light Infantry.

[93] In the writing of David Humphreys. From a photostat of the original in the William Ely collection, Providence, R. I. The portions in brackets in the draft, which is also by Humphreys, are in the writing of Washington.

The Quarter Master General will apply for such fatigue parties as are necessary to repair the road to Sussex Courthouse.

At a General Court Martial whereof Lieutenant Colonel De Hart was president, held in the Jersey Camp the 2d of May 1781, Simon Kent soldier in the first Jersey regiment was tried for repeated "Desertion found Guilty and sentenced to suffer Death.

The Commander in Chief approves the Sentence but in consequence of the recommendation of Colonel Dayton is pleased to pardon the Criminal and to direct that he be transferred to one of the Continental Ships of War at Philadelphia.

*To JOHN SULLIVAN

New Windsor, May 11, 1781.

Dear Sir: Not Having seen, or heard of any resolve of Congress for establishing the principles of promotion in the Army, I am apprehensive that the report of the Committee who had this matter under consideration is now sleeping in Congress; this, and a recent instance in the Pensylvania Regiment of Artillery, in proof of the *absolute* necessity of adopting some mode by which the whole Army may be bd, and a stop thereby be put to those disputes which keep it in a continual state of distraction and discontent, are the reasons for my troubling you again on this subject and praying, that some decision may be come to by Congress. It is much easier to avoid disagreements than to remove discontentts.; and I again declare, that If my differing in Sentiment from the opins. of the Comee. on some points has been the occasion of delay, I would, rather than have the matter lie over a moment, yield a free assent to all their propositions; for any principle is better than none. I also wish, though this is more a matter of

private than public consideration that the business could be taken up on acct. of Mr. Tilghman, whose appt. seems to depd. upon it for if there are Men in the Army deserving the Comn. proposed for him, he is one of them. This Gentn. came out a Captn. of one of the light Infy Companies of Philadelphia, served in the flying Camp in 1776. In August of the same Year he joined my family and has been in every action in which the Main Army was concerned. He has been a zealous Servant and slave to the public, and a faithful assistant to me for near five years, great part of which time he refused to receive pay. Honor and gratitude, Interests me in his favor, and makes me sollicitous to obtain his Commission. His modesty and love of concord, placed the date of his expected Comn. at the first of April 1777, because he would not take rank of Hamilton and Mead, who were declared Aids in Orders (which he did not choose to be) before that period, altho' he had joined my family and did all the duties of one from the first of Septr. preceeding.

My public letters to Congress will have informed you of the Situation of this Army, and I have no scruple in giving it as my decided opn. that unless a capital change takes place soon it will be impossible for me to maintain our Posts, and keep the Army from dispersing.

The resolution of Congress to appoint Ministers of War, foreign Affairs, and finance, gave, as far as I was able to learn the Sentiments of men in and out of the Army, universal satisfaction. Postponing of the 1st, delaying of the 2d, and disagreeing about the 3rd, has had the direct contrary effect; and I can venture to assure you, not from random guess, or vague information, that the want of an able financier, and a proper plan for the disposition of foreign loans will be a greater bar to the obtaining them, than perhaps Congress are aware of.

I could say more on this subject were I at liberty but shall only add, that there is not, in my opinion a moment to be lost in placing such a character as the world conceives an opinion of, at the head of your finances, that he may, as soon as possible, enter upon the duties of his Office. I am etc.

To MAJOR GENERAL BENJAMIN LINCOLN

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 11, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have received your favors of the 26th. of Apl. and of the 3rd. instant. I am pleased to hear so flattering accounts of the prospects of Men and of some kinds of supplies, but so great are my apprehensions on the score of provisions that I am sending General Heath purposely to the Eastern states to represent our distresses and to endeavour to fix a plan for our regular supply in future. I refer you to him for particulars, which I do not choose to trust to paper. After Genl. Heath has finished this Business, his private Affairs will detain him some time at home, and as he will be able at the same time to attend to what you have at present in charge, you may, upon his return from New Hampshire to Boston, come on to the Army. You will have my warmest thanks for the zeal with which you have promoted and forwarded every measure tending to the good of the service. I am &c.[94]

To COLONEL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 11, 1781.

Dear Sir: I last night recd. your favr. of the 9th. The intelligence you communicate is interesting and what you will be pleased either to confirm or contradict, as speedily as possible and with as much precision as you can, as to the number of

[94] The draft is in the writings of Tench Tilghman.

ships of War, Troops and destination. The number of ships of the line mentioned by your informant must be false except the enemy have received a reinforcement.

I have given orders to the Commy. of prisoners to permit Major and Ensign de Meibom to return to New York upon parole.

Upon your recommendation I have pardonned Kent and have directed him to be transferred to one of the Continental ships of War as you desire.

It is ever disagreeable to me to detach Corps if it can be avoided, but from the nature of our service so many small posts and Guards are necessary, that the evil must be submitted to.

The Adjt. General makes weekly complaints to me that he cannot obtain a return of your line, which must be owing to the neglect of the commanding Officer. If your health does not permit you to attend to this matter yourself, you will make a point with the next in command to have the returns regularly forwarded, upon pain of being called to a disagreeable account for a non compliance.

You will be pleased to have Mr. Adam the Dy. Commy. of prisoners arrested and brought to trial at Morris Town, upon the following Charges.

1st: For receiving from Isaac Frazee a Gratuity for promoting the exchange of his Brother John Frazee.

2d. For purchasing or being concerned in conveying from persons within the Enemy's lines British Goods, contrary to the Laws of the State of New Jersey and against the spirit of repeated General Orders.

Mr. Isaac Frazee must be summoned to support the 1st. Charge, and Mr. Matthias Halstead the 2d. I am etc.[95]

[95] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To THOMAS DURIE[96]

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 11, 1781.

Sir: I have given orders to have Mr. Adam the Dy. Commy. of Prisoners at Elizabeth Town arrested and brought to trial upon some charges of mal conduct which have been exhibited against him to Congress. You will therefore proceed to Elizabeth Town, and remain there untill the matter shall be determined, or untill Mr. Skinner's return from Philada. You will permit Major de Meibom[97] and Ensign de Meibom,[98] who are at Chatham, to return to New York upon parole, 'till exchanged or called for.

You will be pleased to take care of the letters for General Robertson, General Reidesel and Colo. Dayton. The two first you will send by a Flag. I am &c.[99]

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

[New Windsor, May 11, 1781.]

[Sir]: I have this instant received a Letter from Col Dayton (an Officer of intelligence in the American Army near Elizabeth Town) which contains the inclosed Paragraph.

His information must I conceive, have magnified the Enemy's force, both in ships of the Line, and in the strength of the Detachment. Nor do I conceive the fleet could have sailed on the 8th as he mentions, on account of the Wind and weather; still less am I disposed to believe that New Port is the object of this Armament; but as intelligence thro' another Channel

[96] Deputy Commissary of Prisoners.

[97] Maj. Justus Christoph de Meibom, of Baum's Brunswick Dragoons, German allied troops, British Army.

[98] Ensign Carl Christoph de Meibom, of the Regiment Riedesel, German allied troops.

[99] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

pointed to that Epoch for the sailing of the fleet; I have not delayed a moment in giving the information as I received it, and shall thank your Excellency for handing it to the Admiral.

With great esteem etc.[1]

To BARON VON RIEDESEL

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 11, 1781.

Sir: I have been honored with your favor of April without particular date. You must either have been misinformed as to the letters which passed from General Phillips to Me of the 23d. Decemr. and from me to Sir Henry Clinton on the 25th. January in answer, or you must have misunderstood them. I therefore inclose you Copies of them. You will observe that I acceded only to the exchanges of the British Officers particularly named in General Phillips's letter. I refused his proposal of permitting an indeterminate number of British or German Officers to be sent to New York at the discretion of Brig: General Hamilton.

Some time after, proposals for a further exchange bearing date the 3d of March, and in which are included the German Officers whose names you mention, were communicated to me by my Commissary General of prisoners, to which I did not think proper to accede, as I conceived the exchange of Lieut. Genl. Burgoyne was unreasonably delayed. My answer and instructions upon this head have been communicated at large to Mr. Loring by Mr. Skinner.

Were I inclined to partiality in favor of the British Officers, I have it not in my power to exercise it, as the choice of the objects of exchange does not lie with me.

[1]The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys, who has noted on the same: "The Counts Letters of the 5th & 7th were acknowledged."

At your particular request I have given orders to have Major and Ensign de Meibom sent into New York upon parole I have the honor etc.[2]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 11, 1781.

Sir: I have the honor to enclose to your Excellency, the Extract of a Letter from Col Dayton, which is just received. As this is the first *Information,* I thought proper to communicate it, altho, from the circumstances of the Wind and Weather at the time the fleet is said to have sailed, as well as from the number of Ships of the Line (of which there were not so many at New York) and strength of the Detachment, it does not carry the strongest marks of credibility; if founded on fact, it will undoubtedly be soon confirmed, thro' other Channels, of which I shall not fail to advise Congress. I have the honor etc.

P. S. I have recd your Excellencys favor of the first Inst. proper steps have been taken to bring Mr. Adam the Dep. Com. of Prisoners to account.[3]

To MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 12, 1781.

Sir: Your favor of the 29th: of April from Philada. was delivered to me on the 9th: Instant by Colo. Stewart. That of the 15th. of January from Berkely in Virginia reached me in due time. I should be sorry to think that either the public or yourself should have suffered from the unaccountable delay of

[2] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[3] In the writing of David Humphreys.

On May 11 Washington wrote to Lieut. Gen. James Robertson a brief note, forwarding inclosures from Robert Morris to him. This draft is in the *Washington Papers.*

my letter of the 8th. of October, and I should with the greatest readiness set about an enquiry into the cause of it, did it appear practicable to make any discoveries after so much time has elapsed.

Your letter of the 24th: of April to the president of Congress was, as you have been informed, transmitted to me with the following indorsement by the secretary, "Ordered to be transmitted to the Commander in Chief" without any further instructions on the matter. As that letter contained an Appeal to Congress and a request that they would themselves proceed upon the Enquiry which they had ordered to be held upon your Conduct, I could only, in answer, advise them of the steps which had been taken to endeavour to bring it on at the southern Army, and with the Reasons which operated against it at the time, and which, I suppose, from the unsettled State of Affairs in that quarter, are still likely to exist. I informed them, likewise, that only two modes remained of bringing the matter to an issue in a military way; ordering the enquiry to be held with the southern Army immediately and at all events, or taking Depositions there and producing them in Evidence to a Court here.

I hope you are assured that nothing has been neglected on my part, which could tend to carry the orders of Congress into Execution. The cause of delay hitherto you are acquainted with. No particular Charges having been lodged with me, I neither had nor have I any to make. The Court, if they do meet, can only proceed upon the Resolve of the 5th. of October which directs in general terms, An enquiry into your conduct as Commander of the southern Army.

Although I have not the pleasure of being personally acquainted with Major Pinkney, I was no stranger to his character before your warm recommendation of him. I cannot,

without infringing a general Rule of Conduct, which has lately been enforced by a Resolve of Congress, give directions for the exchange of any Officer out of his turn, but I can, on account of the Majors peculiar situation, with propriety desire General Greene to interest himself in obtaining his parole. This I will do, the first time I have occasion to write to him. I have the honor etc.[4] [N.Y.H.S.]

To CAPTAIN THOMAS ARNOLD

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 12, 1781.

Sir: I have recd. yours of the 1st. Instant. Although it is my wish to afford every comfort and assistance in my power, to an Officer who has suffered so much in the service as you have done, yet I cannot, with propriety, indulge you in the request you make of being permitted to go for a time into the sea service. It would introduce a practice not warranted in any Army, and would lead to numberless applications of the same nature, tho perhaps not so well grounded as yours appears to be. I am etc.[5]

To ROBERT MORRIS[6]

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 12, 1781.

Dr. Sir: I had the pleasure of receiving your favor of the 16th. of April a few days ago by Doctor Craick. As I did not conceive that General Robertson would derive any dangerous acquisition of power from the possession of his Commission, I sent it to him yesterday. Acts of Civility of this nature, as you rightly observe, lead to an interchange of good Offices, which are often found necessary and convenient in the events of War.

[4] In the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[5] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[6] Superintendent of Finance of the United States.

[Your acceptance of the Office of Financier has given me much pleasure, and this pleasure is not a little encreased by finding it is universal.]

You will be pleased to make Mrs. Washingtons and my own Respects to Mrs. Morris and believe me to be Sir etc.[7]

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 13, 1781.

Dear Sir: The quantity of salted provisions in the western part of Connecticut, being by your representation much less than was expected, it will certainly be expedient to bring forward that from Hartford by the hired Teams, which you will be pleased to order accordingly. I am &c.[8]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, Sunday, May 13, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

A Captain a subaltern three serjeants and forty rank and file to proceed to New Windsor, and a captain a sub, two serjeants and thirty rank and file to Kingsferry, tomorrow, the former to repair the roads leading from New Windsor towards Sussex and Ringwood the latter to repair the roads from King's ferry towards Morristown. The officers commanding these parties will receive instructions from the Quarter Master General. The party going to King's ferry will take the necessary tools from West Point the other will receive them at New Windsor or Newburgh.

The above parties to carry their arms and forty rounds of ammunition.

[7] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. The portion in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

[8] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 13, 1781.

Sir: I have this morning received your Excellency's favour of the 8th. Give me leave most sincerely to congratulate you on the safe return of the Viscount de Rochambeau, who I hope is the Bearer of agreeable intelligences.

I will meet your Excellency at Weathersfield at any time which you shall please to appoint. A Copy of your letter has been instantly transmitted to His Excellency the Minister at Philada.

I have no further accounts from New York since my letter of the 11th: except what is brought by two Deserters who speak confidently of a detachment from the Army having sailed last Week, but know nothing respecting the Fleet. I have the honor etc.[9]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, Monday, May 14, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

All the Non commissioned officers and privates of Colonel Baldwin's regiment of Artificers except the sadlers and shoemakers, are to be sent to the Park of Artillery and put under the command of Captain Patten.[10] The Sadlers and Shoemakers are to remain at Fishkill 'till further orders under the direction of the deputy Quarter Master General at that Post.

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[9] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

On this same day (May 13) Washington inclosed, as above, a copy of Rochambeau's letter in a brief note to Chevalier la Luzerne. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

[10] Capt.-Lieut. Thomas Patton, of Baldwin's Artillery Artificers. He served to June, 1783.

On May 13 Washington wrote to Major General McDougall, that but one brigadier with the line of the Army "for particular reasons, request you will expedite your return from Philadelphia as much as possible." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

*To JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JUNIOR

New Windsor, May 14, 1781.

Dear Sir: In answer to your favor of the 10th., which came to my hands last night, I have to assure you, that your joining my family in the first part of June will be very convenient for me, and that I shall be happy in the event. With very great esteem etc.[11]

To PHILIP SCHUYLER

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 14, 1781.

Dear Sir: The Letter which you did me the favor to write on the 4th instant has been duly received. I am glad to find that you have received the necessary papers, and are entering upon the measures for intercepting the Enemy's communications. I hope you will be enabled by the assistance of the person proposed (if he is found sufficiently faithful and intelligent) to prosecute those measures to good effect; because I think the intelligence obtained thro' that channel may be depended upon, and will eventually be of very great consequence to us. Much, I apprehend, is to be dreaded from the predatory incursions of the Enemy this Campaign; to be apprised of their designs, and guarded against them, at all points, as far as possible, will tend most essentially to disconcert their Plans, and protect our Frontiers.

As to the disposition of the Vermontese, I know nothing of it, but from description; at present, they are at least, a dead weight upon us; it is greatly to be regretted they are not, by some means or another, added to our scale; as their numbers, strength, and resources, would certainly preponderate very considerably, and make the Enemy extremely cautious how

[11] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

they advanced far in that quarter. The bulk of the People, I am persuaded, must be well affected; should it be otherwise with any of the individuals, I ardently wish they may be detected in their vilainy, and brought to the punishment they deserve.[12]

I have been exceedingly distressed, by the repeated accounts I have received of the sufferings of the Troops on the frontier, and the terrible consequences, which must ensue unless they were speedily supplied. What gave a particular poignancy to the sting, I felt on the occasion, was my inability to afford relief. Such partial Supplies however as were on hand, to the very last Barrel of Meat, I ordered instantly to be sent, and have promised General Clinton, what further succour, the States will enable me to give. Major General Heath hath gone to the several Eastern States, [to enforce my pointed representations] rouse them to more vigorous exertions, and to make arrangements for supplies during the whole Campaign. I cannot but hope this measure will be attended with success. I am &c.[13]

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[12] "The conduct of the Vermontese is mysterious and if the reports which generally prevail are well founded their measures will certainly be attended with dangerous consequences to this and the other united States. I cannot however believe that the bulk of the people are in the secret. I rather conjecture that the person whom we suspected last year to have been in New York, and some others are the only culpable ones, and that they amuse the people with making them believe that the whole of their negotiation with General Haldemand is merely calculated to give Congress and this state the alarm, that the Independance of Vermont may be acknowledged; I was anxious for ceeding the Jurisdiction beyond a twenty mile line from Hudsons river, that their Independance might be immediately acknowledged and they made useful to the Common cause but the Governor put a stop to the business 'as the affair was referred to the decision of Congress.'

"I sincerely wish they [Congress] would speedily decide, acknowledge them independant, and admit them into the union. If this was instantly done, the measures of their leaders would be brought to the test, and we should know If they had only tended to bring about their independance, or to have connected themselves with the Enemy, but unless Congress are pushed to a decision I believe they will do nothing in it, but who is to urge them, I know not. The governor cannot do It officially and our delegates I believe will not, unless they believe that the decision will go against the Vermontese."—*Schuyler to Washington,* May 4, 1781. Schuyler's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

[13] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 14, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have received your favor of the 22d of April. Having been informed that Colonel Vose wished to return to the Northward, Colonel Tupper was ordered to relieve him previous to the receipt of Your letter. Notwithstanding the Marquis had suggested that your being appointed to that Command would be exceedingly agreeable to the Regt. I did not think it could possibly be done; without involving very great inconveniencies, because in that case, there would have been ten Companies from the Massachusetts Line, and not a single Field Officer from that State. I am etc.[14]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 14, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have been favored with your Letter of the 7th. Instant. The measure you took, for obtaining bread for the Troops, in their distress, by ordering up the flour from the Mills below has my entire approbation.

General Heath has gone to the Eastern States, as was proposed. I suggested, in my former Letter[15] One-tenth part of the whole supply of Meat, from New England, is ordered to Your Department.

A quantity of Ammunition is also directed to be sent to Albany: This must not be delivered to any Troops whatever, on any occasion, or under any pretext, but by the Express Order of the Commanding Officers of the Continental Troops in that Department, and I must request, that he will make use of

[14] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

[15] See Washington's letter to Brig. Gen. James Clinton, May 7, 1781, *ante*.

every proper precaution and check, to prevent the dissipation and loss of an Article, which has been so frequently squandered in vain, and which is so absolutely essential to our defence. I am &c.

P. S. As soon as provisions can possibly be obtained for their support; I wish you to assemble *all the Levies* destined for the defence of the frontier. so that we may be able to have the Continental Troops releived, especially the remainder of Van Schaick's Regt. and called from thence at a moment's warning. I have recd. your favor of the 12th Inst.[16]

To PHILIP VAN RENSSELAER

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 14, 1781.

Sir: Perceiving by your return of the 1st. Inst. that there was no Ammunition in the Store at Albany I have directed General Knox to send up ten Barrels of Powder and one thousand pounds of Lead. Both of these have become very scarce Articles and therefore require the utmost Oeconomy in their expenditure. I do not know upon what orders you have heretofore been used to issue, but in future you will be pleased to observe that no stores are to be delivered but upon my own or the order of the Continental Officer commanding at the Northward. I have written to Genl. Clinton upon the subject. I am &c.[17]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN PATERSON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 14, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have recd yours of this day. Should the Enemy still be out, you will instantly put the Connecticut line in mo-

[16] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.
[17] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

tion, with Orders to reinforce the Corps under Colonel Scammell. The Troops must all be held in the most perfect readiness for action, and the Water Guards be instructed to use the greatest vigilance. Every effort will be necessary to gain early, regular, and constant intelligence of the Enemy's numbers, motions and designs, which you will be pleased to communicate to me.

Should any thing material happen, I shall wish to be informed immediately; and even, though nothing of consequence should take place you will please to let me hear from you by the Morng. I am &c.[18]

To RALPH POMEROY

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 14, 1781.

Sir: I have appointed to meet Count de Rochambeau and Count de Barras[19] at Weathersfield on Monday the 21st. Inst. They will be accompanied by the Chevalier de Chattelus and probably with several other Gentlemen. I purpose being at Weathersfield on saturday Evening. General Knox and General du portail with the Gentlemen of our several families will attend me. You will endeavour to obtain Quarters for us all, and to provide Forage for two or three days at least. The number of Horses will be considerable. I have fixed upon Weathersfield, as it will be the time of the meeting of the Assembly at Hartford, and that Town will be full. I am etc.[20]

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 14, 1781.

Sir: I had yesterday the honor of receiving your Excellency's favor of the 7th. accompanied by the Copy of one which you

[18] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.
[19] Jacques Melchoir, Comte Barras St. Laurent, Chef d'escadre, of the French Navy.
[20] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

had written to the Chevalier des Touche. As I very much approve the plan[21] which you therein recommend, I permitted the original and the packet for the Count de Rochambeau to go forward.

I last night received dispatches from the Count de Rochambeau and the Count de Barras, who has come over to take command of the Fleet at Rhode Island. They request an interview with me as soon as possible, and I have appointed Monday the 21st. of this Month at Weathersfield near Hartford.

I forward to your Excellency, by this Express, a large packet which came in the Concord, and I have taken the liberty to address one which is for the Marquis de la Fayette to your care. As the dispatches are probably of consequence, and it is somewhat uncertain where the Marquis will be, I shall be much obliged to your Excellency for causing a man of integrity to be hired for the purpose of carrying and delivering them himself. I have the honor etc.[22]

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 14, 1781.

Sir: I last night had the honor of receiving your Excellency's favor of the 11th: As you request me to name the time of meeting, I appoint Monday the 21st. of the Month at Weathersfield, which I think is as soon as will be possible for you with convenience. Genl. Knox and Genl. du portail will accompany me. [I will endeavor to be at Wethersfield on Saturday afternoon myself and have made choice of this town in preference to Hartford because the latter will be occupied by the Assembly of the State which is now sitting.]

[21] A suggestion that Destouches take post in Chesapeake Bay with his squadron.

[22] In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From a photostat of the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

I forward the packets for His Excellency the Chevalier de la Luzerne by Express, and inform him of the time and place of our intended interview; but I do not imagine it will be possible for him to be present at it.

I shall very impatiently wait the pleasure of meeting your Excellency and the Count de Barras. I have the honor etc.[23]

To COMTE DE BARRAS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 14, 1781.

Sir: I have the honor of receiving your Excellency's letter of the 11th. Give me leave to congratulate you upon your safe arrival and upon your appointment to the command of His Most Christian Majesty's Fleet and sea forces upon these Coasts. It affords no small degree of pleasure to find the command devolve upon an Officer of your Excellency's distinguished character.

I have fixed upon Monday the 21st. of this month for the time of our interview at Weathersfield. And I shall very impatiently wait for the opportunity of convincing you personally that I am &c.[24]

To CHEVALIER DESTOUCHES

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 14, 1781.

Sir: I have been honored with your favor of the 10th. announcing the arrival of the Count de Barras to take the command of His Majesty's Fleet. You judge very rightly in supposing that the term of your command will not be looked upon as mispent. You may be assured, Sir, that America will ever

[23] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. The portion in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

[24] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

retain the most grateful remembrance of the exertions you have made in her behalf. As to myself, I shall ever be happy in opportunities of testifying the high sense I entertain of your merit, and with how much Esteem. I am &c.[25]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, Tuesday, May 15, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

Returns of the number of Recruits that have joined each State line; Hazen's regiment, and the Park of Artillery since the first day of April last (specifying the number of those that were sent back as unfit for service) to be given in to the Adjutant General's office on thursday next without fail.

To MAJOR GENERAL PHILEMON DICKINSON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 15, 1781.

Dear Sir: You may be assured, that nothing would give me greter pleasure than to interest myself in a matter which concerned you or your friend[26] could I do it with propriety, but, unfortunately, the request which you make cannot, from the present circumstances of Affairs, be complied with by me. As I have never had the least correspondence with Don Galvez or any of the spanish Commanders, except a complimentary letter from the Governor of the Havannah, you will readily perceive that it would appear strange should I interfere in a measure of the kind you mention. I however think the thing of serious importance to individuals who are friendly to the interests of the United States, but who may have invested property in the Flor-

[25] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[26] Evan Jones, of Pensacola, Fla.

idas previous to the Rupture with Great Britain, and I have no doubt but could the matter be properly stated to His Excellency the Minister of France and those individuals pointed out, He would concert Means with the spanish Commanders to grant indulgencies if not perfectly secure the Estates of such persons should those Governments fall to the spanish Arms. I am etc.[27]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN PATERSON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 15, 1781.

Dear Sir: Your favor of this Morning with the enclosures, is just received.

You will be pleased immediately to order a Detachment of 200 Men properly Officered, to fall down by Water to Kings Ferry, and to move as expeditiously as possible to cover the Country and to support the Garrison of the Block House at Dobbs Ferry; if the Enemy should appear to have any serious designs against it.

It will be well to give advice of this Movement to the Commanding Officer of the Water Guards instantly, with direction for him to communicate with the Commanding Officer of the Detachmt. and to inform you, by the most rapid conveyance, of any thing important that may happen. I am etc.[28]

To CHEVALIER JOHN PAUL JONES

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 15, 1781.

Sir: My partial acquaintance with either our naval or commercial affairs makes it altogether impossible for me to account for the unfortunate delay of those Articles of Military Stores

[27] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[28] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

and Clothing which I have been informed have been so long provided in France. Had I have had any particular reason to have suspected you of being accessary to that delay, which I assure you has not been the case, my suspicions would have been removed by the very full and satisfactory answers which you have, to the best of my judgment, made to the questions proposed to you by the Board of Admiralty, and upon which, that Board have, in their report to Congress, testified the high sense which they entertain of your Merits and services.

Whether our Naval Affairs have in general been well or ill conducted would be presumptious in me to determine. Instances of bravery and good conduct in several of our Officers have not however been wanting; delicacy forbids me to mention, that particular one which has attracted the admiration of all the World[29] and which has influenced the Most illustrious Monarch to confer a mark of his favor, which can only be attained by a long and honorable service, or by the performance of some brilliant Action.

That you may long enjoy the reputation you have so justly acquired is the sincere Wish of, Sir &c.[30]

*To REVEREND EZRA STILES[31]

New Windsor, May 15, 1781.

Sir: For the honor conferred on me by the President and Fellows of the University of Yale College, by the Degree of Doctorate in Laws,[32] my warmest thanks are offered; and the polite manner in which you are pleased to request my acceptance of this distinguished mark of their favor, demands my grateful acknowledgments.

[29] The engagement between the *Serapis* and the *Bon Homme Richard*.
[30] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[31] President of Yale College.
[32] In the *Washington Papers* in the Library of Congress.

That the College in which you preside may long continue a useful Seminary of learning; and that you may be the happy instrument in the hands of Providence for raising it to honor and dignity, and making it advancive of the happiness of Mankind is the sincere wish of Sir Yr. etc.

To BARON STEUBEN

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 16, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have received your favor of the 21st. of April, and by your letters of a later date, which I have seen published, I am informed of the progress of the Enemy as far as petersburgh. It gave me pleasure to find that the behaviour of the Militia merited your thanks. I hope the advance of the Marquis with the troops under his command would give fresh spirits to the Militia, and enable your combined force, at least, to check the further progress of General Phillips.

You were informed in my last of the Arms and Cloathing which were forwarding from hence and Philada.

I have good reason to believe that another detachment of between 1500 and 2000 Men sailed from New York last Week. Their particular destination I have not yet learned. I should suppose it is for Virginia or Carolina, tho' they have industriously reported in New York that it is for the Delaware. You will be pleased to communicate this intelligence to General Greene and to the Marquis de la Fayette. My uncertainty of the position of either of them, prevents my writing immediately to them.

I set out in a day or two to meet Count Rochambeau who has received late dispatches from France by His son. We shall probably at that interview determine definitively upon the plan of Campaign. I am etc.[33]

[33] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN PATERSON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 16, 1781.

Dr. Sr: Since my return from the Point I am favored with yours.[34] I think it will be expedient for Col Badlam to remain in his present position, until the State of the Enemy is more thoroughly ascertained, from below. With great Regard etc.

P. S. Please to send up the Deserter.[35]

To SIR HENRY CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 16, 1781.

Sir: I am directed to enquire whether permission will be granted to ship 600 Hhds of Tobacco from the States of Virginia and Maryland to Charles town in south Carolina, to be there sold and the proceeds applied to the support of the American prisoners of War. Should this proposition meet your Excellency's approbation, I will transmit the names of the Vessels and Masters and apply to you for the necessary passports, or it may perhaps be equally convenient to give directions to Major Genl. Phillips or the Officer commanding his Britannic Majesty's forces in Virginia to grant the passports there. I have the honor etc.[36]

To ABRAHAM SKINNER

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 16, 1781.

Sir: You will give permission to John Shaddon, Elijah Williams, Edward Bugbee, Abraham Lent, Willm Ryer, and Nathaniel Conckling (who were taken Prisoners when General

[34] Forwarding a return of the killed, wounded, and missing in the surprise and massacre of Col. Christopher Greene's command at Croton River, N. Y., May 14, 1781.

[35] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

[36] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Parsons was at West Chester last Winter) to go within the Enemy's Lines on their paroles to return when called for. I am etc.[37]

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 16, 1781.

Gentlemen: I have been honored with your favors of the 2d. and 8th. Inst. The first did not reach me till yesterday. I have immediately made application to Sir Henry Clinton for permission to send Tobacco to Charles Town, but I apprehend it will not be granted, as I think a request of a similar nature has been heretofore refused.

Inclosed you have some additions to the arrangement of the Pennsa. line. They have been transmitted to me by Brig. Genl. Wayne. I have the honor etc.[38]

To GOVERNOR THOMAS JEFFERSON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 16, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's favor of the 23d. ulto. I have since seen by the prints, that the enemy had reached Petersburgh after being opposed in a spirited manner by the Militia under the command of The Baron Steuben. I hope the advance of the Marquis de la Fayette with the choice Body of Continental troops under his command will check the progress of General Phillips.

A variety of circumstances retarded the march of the 1st. division of the Pennsylvania line much beyond the time expected; I however hope that they have moved from the place of rendezvous before this day.

[37] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.
[38] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

I have very good reason to believe, that another detachment of between 1500 and 2000 Men sailed from New York last Week; their particular destination I have not yet learned. I should suppose it is for Virginia or Carolina, tho' they have industriously reported in New York that it is for Delaware.

I shall set out in a day or two to meet Count de Rochambeau who has received late dispatches from the Court of France. At that interview I shall be informed of the expectations from Europe, and we shall then probably settle a plan of Campaign. I can only assure you at present that every attention shall be paid to the relief and support of the southern States. I have the honor etc.[39]

To COLONEL ALEXANDER SCAMMELL

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 17, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have recd. intelligence that a party of the Enemy are establishing themselves at or near Fort Lee and building a Block House or some kind of Work. If they are permitted to compleat their plan they will not only be difficult to remove but they will harrass the Country from thence and may be much in the way of some future operation. When I formed the Battalion, which you at present command, it was with a view of having a Corps ready to execute a project of the kind which I shall propose to you, which is to endeavour to strike, by surprise, the party above mentioned. You will, without loss of time, see Captain Lawrence[40] who commands the York Levies near Dobbs Ferry and concert measures with him for gaining certain intelligence of the real strength and situation

[39] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[40] Capt. Jonathan Lawrence, jr., of the New York levies. He was made captain of Sappers and Miners in June, 1781, and resigned in November, 1782.

of the Enemy and if you find them such as seem to give you a tolerable certainty of success you will plan your attack in such manner as shall be best warranted from your information. The sooner it is done the better, as the enemy, if they are fortifying will be every day stronger. You will take Captain Lawrence under your command with the Levies of New York and any Jersey Militia that you may find embodied, but you will trust no Officer among them nor any other but Lawrence with your design. He is sensible and appears discreet.

As I confide very much in your prudence and Judgment I shall only give you these general directions: to attempt nothing which may have the appearance of rashness and to guard well against being drawn into an ambuscade or being intercepted by a sudden reinforcement from York Island. Captain Lawrence's party who must be acquainted with every foot of the Ground ought to secure you against the first, and guards, at the practicable landing places will certainly prevent the last.

I shall set out in the Morning for Connecticut and shall be absent six or seven days. If you make the attempt I wish you every success. I am etc.[41]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID FORMAN

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 17, 1781.

Dear Sir: I am just now favored with yours of the 14th. I am exceedingly obliged by the distinct and full intelligence it contains of the sailing of the British Fleet. I had not before been able to ascertain the Matter, and I was very anxious to do it, as I am to set out tomorrow to meet the French Admiral and General in Connecticut.

[41] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

I shall very willingly consent to take a person into pay at the Rate you mention,[42] as the Heights of Monmouth are the only ones from whence the Movements of the Enemy's fleet in and out of the Hook can be clearly discovered.

It am exceedingly sorry to hear of your Family misfortune,[43] and am, With very great Esteem etc.[44]

To CAPTAIN JONATHAN LAWRENCE, JUNIOR

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 17, 1781.

Sir: I have this moment received your Letter of yesterday's date.

With regard to the proposal made by the Person mentioned in Yours,[45] I cannot say that I place much confidence in the sincerity of it; and yet I think it is not altogether to be neglected.

I have no objection to your meeting him with a flag, or his coming to the place you propose; And you are authorised to assure him in my name of perfect indemnification for his past conduct, and entire exemption from the service, if he shall execute the plan in contemplation. But I must recommend, in the most pointed positive terms, that you will use the strictest precaution to prevent deception, or any ill consequences that might insue from the insidious Arts of an Enemy, watching to take every advantage of us. I am etc.

P. S. I wish you to obtain and communicate every intelligence of consequence repecting the Enemy. I will request you also to be very particular as to the late embarkation, and the number, strength, and position of the Corps, still remaining on Long, York and Staten Islands.[46]

[42] Pay and rations of a horseman.

[43] The "family misfortune" was the death of Forman's young son.

[44] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[45] Capt. Thomas Ward, a loyalist refugee. He was variously stated to have been an ensign and a sergeant in Malcom's New York regiment.

[46] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 17, 1781.

Sir: The inclosed dispatches have just been sent to me with a request that I would forward them immediately to your Excellency. Count Charlus mentions that the packet for the Marquis[47] is of [great] importance and wishes it may be transmitted to him by a safe conveyance. I have the honor etc.[48]

To COMTE DE CASTRIES DE CHARLUS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 17, 1781.

Sir: I had this morning the pleasure of receiving your favor of the 12th. The dispatches for the Marquis de la Fayette have been forwarded by a servant of his own who was luckily here and just setting out for the southward.

I am exceedingly obliged by the trouble you have taken in making me a Copy of the Map of the Country in the Vicinity of portsmouth. I have the honor etc.[49]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 17, 1781.

Sir: His Excellency The Count de Rochambeau having received dispatches from the Court of France by his son the Viscount de Rochambeau, who arrived at Boston in the Frigate la Concorde the 6th: instant, has requested an interview with me. I have appointed the place of meeting at Weathersfield on Monday next, for which purpose, I shall set out tomorrow

[47] Lafayette.

[48] In the writing of Tench Tilghman. The word in brackets in the draft, which is also by Tilghman, is in the writing of Washington. From a photostat of the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

[49] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

from hence. I am in hopes we shall be able, from the intelligences received, to settle a definitive plan of Campaign.

I am sorry to inform your Excellency, that a part of our advanced troops were surprised on Monday Morning near Croton River, by about sixty Horse and two hundred foot under the command of Colonel Delancey.[50] Colo. Greene who commanded our party was mortally wounded in his quarters. The enemy attempted to carry him off, but he died upon the Road. Major Flagg was killed. The loss of these two Officers is to be regretted, especially the former, who had upon several occasions distinguished himself, particularly in the defence of the post of Red Bank in 1777, when he defeated Count Donop. I inclose a Return of our loss upon the late occasion.[51] The Enemy upon their return fell in with Capt. Fog[52] of the New Hampshire line, who was patrolling near the White plains. They attempted to surround him and cut him off by dint of superior numbers, but the Captain made so good a disposition of his small force, that he brought them off with the loss of two Men only. The enemy had a Captain and several Men killed in the attack. I have the honor etc.[53]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor,
Thursday, May 17, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

The Enemy having embarked a considerable number of troops lately at New York the General thinks it necessary

[50] Col. James Delancey.

[51] The return, which is filed with Washington's letter in the *Papers of the Continental Congress,* shows a total of 44 killed, wounded, and missing.

[52] Capt. Jeremiah Fogg, of the Second New Hampshire Regiment. He was transferred to the First New Hampshire Regiment in March, 1782, and served to June, 1783.

[53] In the writing of Tench Tilghman.

(though the destination of them is not yet known) to have a detachment of four hundred men immediately formed and held in readiness to march at an hour's warning.

This Corps is to consist of a Colonel, Lieutenant Colonel and Major, eight Captains Sixteen Subalterns with staff and Non-commissioned officers proportioned.

Colonel Scammell will command it and 'till further orders may lay encamped contiguous to King's ferry and be ready to support the Party on the lines.

The Detachment now on the lines to be immediately relieved by Detail from the Army at large; the Relief to consist of a number equal to the detachment previous to the disaster of the 14th inst.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, Friday, May 18, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

The Commander in Chief having occasion to be absent from the Army for a few days Major General St. Clair will command untill his return, or 'till an officer superior to himself [*sic*] shall arrive.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 18, 1781.

Dear Sir: I recd. your favor of the 16th. Just as I was setting out for Connecticut to meet the Count de Rochambeau. I am exceedingly sorry for the unfortunate accident at Fort schuyler; that with the destruction of the Works by Rain seem to make it necessary to abandon that valuable post. I however leave the determination upon that point to the Governor and yourself,

as I do every measure which the necessity of the moment may dictate. I hope at the intended interview with the French Commanders something definitive in regard to the Campaign will be settled. After that we shall know with certainty how to apply our force. I am &c.[54]

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 18, 1781.

Dr Sr: Just as I was preparing to set out to meet the Count De Rochambeau at Weathersfield I recd Your Excy favor of Yesterday.

I am extremely unhappy at the intelligence from Ft Schuyler. What I have thought adviseable to be done at this moment, Your Excellency will see by my letter to Gen Clinton, which I have left unsealed for your perusal.[55] I have etc.[56]

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[54] In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

[55] The barracks at Fort Schuyler had been destroyed by fire and the fortifications greatly damaged by a subsequent rainstorm. The Governor suggested that the post be abandoned and one established at German Flatts.

[56] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

On May 18 Washington set out for Wethersfield. He reached Morgan's Tavern, 43 miles from Fishkill Landing, after dining at Vanderburg's. Tench Tilghman's memorandum of expenses on this trip to Wethersfield shows the route to have been from New Windsor to Vanderburgs, Washington, Litchfield, Farmington, and Weathersfield. On the return the only names mentioned are Farmington, Cogswells, and Vanderburgs. This memorandum is in the *Washington Papers.* Washington's diary states that he lodged at Joseph Webb's in Wethersfield. The conference with Rochambeau was held May 22. The Comte set out on his return to Newport on May 23, and Washington started for New Windsor on May 24. He dined that day at Farmington and lodged at Litchfield; breakfasted at Squire Cogswell's and dined at Vanderburg's on May 25. He reached New Windsor about sunset the same day. In the *Washington Papers,* under date of March 10, 1783, is a receipt by Jonathan Trumbull, Jr. for Mr. Sheldon, of Litchfield, to Gen. Washington for "Entertainment for yourself, Suite and Attendants" in May, 1781, for £ 6: 7: 6, equalling 21¼ dollars.

This same day (May 18) Washington also wrote briefly to Brig. Gen. John Paterson, who commanded at West Point, that Major General St. Clair would command the Army in Washington's absence at Wethersfield; "Your reports consequently will be made to him." This draft is in the *Washington Papers.*

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, Monday, May 21, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

A General Court martial composed of officers of Artillery (Lieutenant Colonel Stephens, President) to assemble at the Artillery Park at ten o'Clock tomorrow morning for the trial of such prisoners of that corps as may be brought before them; all evidences to attend.

The Quarter masters of Brigades and corps are forthwith to make returns to the Quarter master General of every species of public property in their hands and in possession of the several brigades and Corps including in the Returns all Waggons or other Carriages with their horses and Geers. A Cooper to be sent to attend Commissary Weed's[57] Stores at New Windsor untill further Orders.

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Weathersfield, May 22, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have the honor to enclose to your Excellency a Resolution of Congress respecting mounting and equipping the Corps of Dragoons raised by the State of Connecticut.[58] I am the more induced to wish that this may be done, as Colonel Sheldon's, is now the only Regiment of Cavalry destined to act with the Army under my immediate command, and as the number of men in that Regiment now mounted, are totally unequal to the services which must be expected and required of them. Being impressed with the importance

[57] Jacob Weed. He was Assistant Commissary of Issues.
[58] May 8, 1781.

of the subject, I take the liberty therefore to recommend it to the earliest and most effectual attention of your State. I have the honor etc.[59]

*STRENGTH OF THE ARMY[60]

Weatherfield, May 22, 1781.

New Hampshire	2		
Massachusetts bay	10		
Rhode Island	1		
Connecticut	5		
New York	2		
New Jersey	2		
	22	400	8800
Hazens Regiment			200
State Regiments of Connectt.		2	600
Regiments of Artillery		2	800
A legionary Corps.....Sheldons			300
			10, 700
Deduct from the above.			
For garrisoning West point		750	
now with the Marqs. de la Fayette—Light Infantry		1200	
For the Northern and Western Frontier of New York which it is supposed will be much harrassed		500	
			2, 450
Which leave of Continental Troops that are engaged, some for the War, some for three years, and others for one year only, almost the whole of them raw men, but under good officers			8, 250

[59] In the writing of David Humphreys. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

[60] Estimate of the Force which it [is] supposed we shall be able to bring into the Field in case of an operation agst. New York. A Copy of this was given the Count Rochambeau at Weathersfield." The above document was indorsed by Tilghman as quoted.

It is not only possible, but probable that the above 8250 Men if New York shd. be the declared, or apparent object might be increased	2,000	
	10,250	
It is also presumed, that under the like knowledge or expectation there would be no want of Militia.		
The Enemy's strength at New York consists of Regular Troops	4500	
Refugees	1000	
Militia	2000	
		7,500

*To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Wethersfield, May 23, 1781.

Sir: The letter which I have the honor to inclose from the Count de Rochambeau will, I imagine, inform your Excellency of the intended march of the French army towards the North River, and of the destination of the Kings Squadron now in the harbour of Newport, (if circumstances will admit of the respective movements). I should be wanting in respect and confidence were I not to add, that our object is new York. The Season, the difficulty and expence of Land transportation, and the continual waste of men in every attempt to reinforce the Southern States, are almost insuperable objections to marching another detachment from the Army on the North River; nor do I see how it is possible to give effectual support to those States, and avert the evils which threaten them, while we are inferior in naval force in these Seas. It is not for me to know in what manner the Fleet of His Most Christian Majesty is to be employed in the W. Indies this Summer or to enquire at what epocha it may be expected on this Coast; but the appearance and aid of it in this Quarter is of such essential importance in any offensive operation, and so necessary to stop the

progress of the enemys arms to the Southward, that I shall be excused, I am perswaded, for endeavouring to engage your Excellencys good offices in facilitating an event on which so much depends. For this I have a stronger plea when I assure you, that General Rochambeau's opinion and wishes concur with mine and that it is at his instance principally I make you this address.

If we are happy enough to find your Excellency in sentiment with us, it will be in your power to inform the Count de Grasse of the strength and situation of the enemys Naval and land force in this Country, the destination of the French Squadron under Admiral Barras and the intention of the Allied arms if a junction can be formed. at present the B. Fleet lyes within Block Island and about five leagues from Point Judith.

The Count de Rochambeau and the Chevr. Chartellux agree perfectly in Sentiment with me, that while affrs. remain as they now are, the West India Fleet should run immediately to Sandy hook, [if there are no concerted operations] where it may be met with all the information requisite, and where, most likely, it will shut in, or cut off, Adml. Arbuthnot; and may be joined by the Count de Barras. An early and frequent communication from the Count de Grasse, would lead to preparatory measures on our part, and be a means of facilitating the operation in hand, or any other which may be thought more advisable.

I know your Excellency's goodness, and your zeal for the common cause too well, to offer any thing more as an apology for this liberty; and I perswade myself it is unnecessary for me to declare the respect and attachment with which etc.[61]

[61] The letter sent, in the writing of Tench Tilghman, is in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6. It differs, of course, from the above autograph draft in spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.

*CONFERENCE WITH COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU[62]

Wethersfield, May 23, 1781.

ROCHAMBEAU: The project to transport the entire French army to Chesapeake Bay in Barras' squadron.

1st. WASHINGTON: However desirable such an event might have been, the reasons now assigned by the Count de Barras are sufficient to prove its impracticability.

ROCHAMBEAU: Should the French army march to the North River what position should Barras' squadron take?

2d. WASHINGTON: It is Genl Washington's opinion that the Plan of Campaign will render it necessary for the French Army to march from Newport towards the North River as soon as possible and that consequently it will be advisable for the Count de Barras (agreeable to his instructions in that case provided) to seek the first favorable moment of removing the Squadron under his command to Boston.

ROCHAMBEAU: In such case, what arrangements are to be made to hold Rhode Island?

3d. WASHINGTON: As the harbor of Rhode Island may be useful to the Fleets of his most Christian Majesty, it is Genl. Washington's opinion, that a force should be left for the security of Newport, but as the Enemy will not be in condition from the present circumstances of their affairs, to detach any considerable body of Men to re-possess the Island, it has been

[62] Comte de Rochambeau and the Chevalier de Chastellux arrived at Wethersfield on May 21 about noon. The conference was held the next day. Rochambeau submitted a series of five "Propositions" he had made to Barras. These are in the writing of De Sibille, with a P. S. added to the fifth proposition in the writing of Chevalier de Chastellux. Washington's "Observations" on these "Propositions" are in his own hand in a parallel column. They are dated by Washington, May 23, on which day the copy of them seems to have been made. Rochambeau's "Propositions" are given above in skeletonized form while Washington's "Observations" thereon are printed in full. Ford prints this under May 22.

agreed upon between His Excellency Count de Rochambeau and Genl. Washington, that 500 Militia, under a good Officer, will be sufficient for the Guards for the Works. but in case of an enterprize against them, a greater force should be called for their defence.

ROCHAMBEAU: If Rhode Island be evacuated what disposition should be made of the heavy artillery and stores that are too heavy to move easily?

4th. WASHINGTON: In the former communications between His Excellency Count de Rochambeau and Genl. Washington, it was understood that the French Fleet was to have remained in the harbor of Newport after the removal of the Army, and therefore, Providence was fixed upon as a safe and proper deposit of the heavy Artillery and Spare Stores. It now being determined that the Fleet shall embrace the first oppertunity of going round to the Harbour of Boston it is to be wished that the heavy Artillery and spare Stores should be sent round also. But Genl Washington being informed by His Excellency Count de Rochambeau that they have been already deposited at Providence, and that it will be impossible under the present circumstances of the Fleet and want of Transportation to remove them to Boston he is of opinion that they may safely remain there under the Guard of 200 French Troops, who will be aided by the Militia of the Country in case of Need. The possession of Newport will add to their security.

ROCHAMBEAU: In event of a French naval reenforcement from the West Indies, what operations will be undertaken by the combined allied forces?

5th. WASHINGTON: The Enemy by several detachments from New York having reduced their force at that Post to less than one half of the number which they had at the time of the

former conference at Hartford in September last; it is thought advisable to form a junction of the French and American Armies upon the North River as soon as possible, and move down to the vicinity of New York to be ready to take advantage of any oppertunity which the weakness of the enemy may afford. Should the West India Fleet arrive upon the Coast; the force thus combined may either proceed in the operation against New Yk. or may be directed against the enemy in some other quarter, as circumstances shall dictate. The great waste of Men (which we have found from experience) in the long Marches to the Southern States; the advanced season now, to commence these in, and the difficulties and expence of Land transportation thither, with other considerations too well known to His Excellency Count de Rochambeau to need detailing, point out the preference which an operation against New York seems to have, in present circumstances, to attempt sending a force to the Southward.

Answer to the P. S. The observation upon the 4th. head sufficiently answers this, as the 500 Militia proposed to be Stationed at Newport may be disposed of in any manner which His Excellency Count de Rochambeau may think proper.[63]

To COMTE DE BARRAS

Wethersfield, May 23, 1781.

Sir: I am sorry that the unexpected appearance of the British Fleet off the Harbour of Newport deprived me of the pleasure of meeting you at this place. I must refer you to His Excellency the Count De Rochambeau for the plan of operations, which has been settled between us and have the honor etc.[64]

[63] Washington's copy is signed by Rochambeau.
[64] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR ST. CLAIR

Weathersfield, May 23, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have recd. your favr. of the 21st: If it can be reduced to a certainty that the enemy are making another embarkation, I shall not think a total evacuation of New York improbable, except they hold us in a light more contemptible than I can suppose they do, or unless they look for speedy reinforcements, of which, from the latest European intelligences, there were no appearances.

I shall probably set out from hence on Friday Morning. But you will say nothing of it. I am etc.[65]

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM GREENE

Wethersfield, May 24, 1781.

Sir: By the plan of operations settled between His Excellency the Count de Rochambeau and myself, the French Army, except a Guard over the Stores at providence, is to march as soon as circumstances will admit and form a junction with the American upon the North River: But as it has been deemed of importance to keep possession of the valuable Works which have been thrown up upon Rhode Island for the security of the Harbour and Road of Newport, I have stipulated to furnish 500 Militia for that service. The exact time at which the French Army will march cannot be fixed and consequently the Militia cannot be called in by any certain day. I must therefore request that the first tour of duty which will probably be short may be performed by Men intirely from the State of Rhode Island and that they may assemble whenever called for by the Count de Rochambeau, from whom the

[65] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Commanding Officer will take his orders as to the particular distribution of them to the several posts. I shall in due time write to the State of Massachusetts to send a proper relief. I could wish that care might be taken to make choice of an Officer of intelligence and spirit. I have the honor &c.

P. S. As the deposit of French Stores at providence is extremely valuable it is hoped that every assistance will be afforded by the Militia of the Country, should the Enemy make any attempt to destroy them.[66]

CIRCULAR TO THE NEW ENGLAND STATES

Weathersfield, May 24, 1781.

Sir: In consequence of a conference held between His Excellency the Count De Rochambeau and myself, at this place, the French Army will march, as soon as circumstances will admit, and form a junction with the American upon the North River.

The accomplishment of the object which we have in contemplation, is of the utmost importance to America, and will, in all probability be attained, unless there should be a failure on our part, in the number of men which will be required for the operation, or the Enemy should withdraw a considerable part of their force from the southward. It is in our own power, by proper exertions, to prevent the first, and should the last take place, we shall be amply repaid our expences, by liberating the southern States, where we have found by experience we are only vulnerable.

Upon the Calculations, that I have been able, in concert with some of the most experienced French and American Officers to form, the operation in view will require, in addition to the French Army all the Continental Battalions from New Hampshire to New Jersey inclusive to be compleated to

[66] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

their full establishment. You must be sensible that the measures taken for that purpose, in consequence of the last requisition of Congress, have been very far from answering the end, as few Recruits, (comparatively speaking) have yet been sent forward, and of those many have been discharged, on account of inability. You must also take into consideration, that a number of those men, who were returned when the requisition was made, have since been taken off by the Casualties incident to an Army. I estimate about one sixth of the number, and therefore provision must at this time be made to replace them.

From what has been premised, you will perceive without my urging further reasons, the necessity I am under of calling upon you, in the most earnest manner, to devise means to send into the field without delay the number of Men which have been already voted for the completion of the Battalions of your State, and the further deficiency of one sixth just mentioned. The term of three Years, or for the War would undoubtedly be preferable to any shorter period, but if they cannot be obtained on those conditions, necessity must oblige us to take them for the Campaign only, which ought to be reckoned to the last day of December.

I should hope, that by proper exertions in collecting and sending forward the men who have been already raised, and compelling by vigorous and decisive methods the delinquent Towns to furnish their quotas, the greater part of the men may be collected by the first of July.

Arguments surely cannot be wanting to impress the Legislatures with a due sense of the obligation which they are under of furnishing the means now called for. The Enemy counting upon our want of ability, or upon our want of Energy, have, by repeated Detachments to the southward, reduced themselves in New York to a situation, which invites us to take advantage of it. And should the lucky moment be

lost, it is to be feared, that they will, after subduing the southern States, raise a force in them sufficient to hold them, and return again to the Northward with such a number of men as will render New York secure against any force which we can, at this time of day raise or maintain. Our Allies in this Country expect, and depend upon being supported by us in the attempt we are about to make, and those in Europe will be astonished should we neglect the favourable opportunity which is now before us.

As it is probable that some Militia, in addition to the full complement of Continental Troops, may be necessary to support communications and for other purposes, you will be pleased to direct 400 Men to be held in readiness to march within one Week after I shall call for them, to serve three Months after they have joined the Army. And I would take the liberty of requesting that the *Executive,* may be vested with full powers, during the recess, to comply with any further requisition I may make for Men, Provision, or for the Means of transportation, which last may be most essential in the course of our operations, should it become necessary to bring Provisions or Stores from a distance.

I shall be glad to be favored with an answer as soon as possible, with an assurance of what I may depend upon, that if I do not clearly see a prospect of being supported, I may turn my views to a defensive instead of an offensive plan, and save the States, and our allies the Expence which would be needlessly incurred by any but an ample and effectual preparation. I have the honor etc.[67] [N. H. H. S.]

[67] In the writing of David Humphreys.

A note on the draft by Tilghman gives the other requisitions of militia as follows: Massachusetts, 2,200, and Connecticut, 1,500. Pennsylvania is listed as 1,600 and New Jersey 500, though the above circular was not sent to these two States. A P. S. was added to the circular sent Rhode Island, as follows: "As the defence of the Island of Newport may be assigned to the Militia of the State I shall not for that reason call upon any from thence to join the Army."

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD VARICK

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 25, 1781.

Sir: By Virtue of the Authority committed to me by Resolution of the Honbl. Congress of the United States of America, I do hereby appoint you my recording Secretary at Head Quarters.

You will therefore enter upon the Duties of your Office, and proceed therein agreeable to my Instructions herewith given you; conforming yourself at all Times to those Instructions, together with such others as may hereafter be added to them by me.

In the Execution of your Duty, which will be extensive, you will employ such Number of Clerks to assist you, as you may find necessary;[68] to each of whom you are hereby authorised, in Behalf of the United States, to promise for his Services, the Sum of fifty Dollars in Specie pr Month; with the Addition of ten dollars more pr Month, to the Person whom you shall appoint as your Head Clerk.

For yourself, you are hereby authorized to receive from the United States, One Hundred Dollars pr month in Specie for your Services; with Warrant to call on the Quarter Master General, or his Deputys, for Office Room, Fire and Candles; and the necessary Requisites of Pen, Ink, and paper for the Use of your Office; as also Forage for two Horses for yourself, when found necessary. All which the Quarter Master General is hereby required to furnish upon your Application.[69]

[N. Y. H. S.]

[68] The clerks employed by Varick, all of whom did not continue in the service until the work was finished, were George Taylor, jr., Oliver Glean, Edward Dunscomb, Zachariah Sickels, Peter Hughes, and John J. Myer. Various memoranda regarding this transcribing is in the New York Public Library, in addition to the documents in the *Washington Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[69] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

Weathersfield [New Windsor], May 25, 1781.

Sir: The great demand we shall have for Powder in the proposed operations of the campaign constrains me to request a loan of that article of the States who are possessed of it, to supply the deficiencies of the Continental magazines. I therefore earnestly request as great a loan of Powder of the State of Massachusetts as can possibly be spared, and that the State would take most speedy and effectual measures to transport it to Fishkill.

If the measures which have been taken to procure an ample supply of Powder from Europe shall prove successful, the Continent will soon have ability to repay any loan which may be furnished on this occasion. I beg a speedy and explicit answer on this subject. I have the honor etc.[70]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD VARICK

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 25, 1781.

Instructions to the Recording Secretary at Head Quarters.

A. 1. All Letters to Congress, Committees of Congress, the Board of War, Individual Members of Congress in their public Characters, and American Ministers Plenipotentiary at Foreign Courts, are to be classed together and to be entered in the Order of their Dates.

B. 2. All letters, Orders, and Instructions to Officers of the line, of the Staff, and all other Military Characters, to compose, a second Class, and to be entered in like manner.

C. 3. All Letters to Governors, Presidents and other Executives of States, Civil Magistrates and Citizens of every Denomination, to be a third Class, and entered as aforementioned.

[70] From a contemporary copy in the writing of Henry Knox.

D. 4. Letters to Foreign Ministers, Foreign Officers, and subjects of Foreign Nations not in the immediate service of America, in Virtue of Commissions from Congress, to compose another Class.

E. 5. Letters to Officers of every Denomination in the service of the Enemy, and to British subjects of every Character with the Enemy, or applying to go in to them.

F. 6. Proceedings of Councils of War in the Order of their dates.

The Secretary is to assort and prepare these papers to be registered by different Clerks. He is to number and keep a List of his Deliveries of them to those persons, takg. rects. for them. The Lists are to specify the Dates, and to whom the Letters are directed; by which the papers after they are registered are to be carefully returned by the Clerks to the Secretary, who is to compare them with the Books of Entries, and to have them neatly filed in the Order they are registered, or in such other manner, as that references may be more easily had to them.[71]

Clerks who write a fair Hand, and correctly, are to be employed; and that there may be a similarity and Beauty in the whole execution all the writing is to be upon black lines equidistant.[72] All the Books to have the same Margin, and be indexed in so clear and intelligent a manner, that there may be no difficulty in the references. The Clerks must be sworn, or be upon their Honour, to be careful of the papers. To give no

[71] The "Books of Entries" were specially made up by William Trickett, stationer and bookbinder, "in Front-street Black-horse Alley, and in Water-street in the lower Part of said House, Philadelphia." They were folio volumes, bound in undressed calf, with parchment backs, and are now known as the "Varick Transcripts" of Washington's letters and form a part of the *Washington Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[72] These black lines were ruled sheets laid under the pages for the guidance of the writers.

Copies without permission, or suffer any thing to be taken with their privity or knowledge.

Letters to me are to be Classed, in the same Order as those from me, indorsed and filed in neat Order, and of easy access.

All Files are to be upon Formers of the same size, that the folds may be the same, and the Stoage (in proper Boxes) close and compact.

All Returns are to be properly assorted arranged, and treated in the same way. So are papers of every other Class; and the whole to be organized in such a manner, as that easy references may be had to them.

If you are not already furnished with a sufficient number of Books, you will apply to the Quarter Master General for as many more as you shall find necessary to compleat your Entries. All the Books are to be of the same size.[73]

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Weathersfield [New Windsor], May 25, 1781.

Sir: It having been represented to me that some powder has been made by your Excellency's directions, at Glassenbury[74] and New Haven in this State, of materials belonging to the Continent, I take the liberty earnestly to request that such measures may be taken by the State as will transport it to Fishkill with the utmost expedition; great care being had that it should not be injured by the weather on its route.

The great demand we shall have for powder in the proposed operations of the campaign obliges me to apply to the respective States who have any for a loan to supply our

[73] A copy in the writing of George Taylor, jr.
[74] Glastonbury.

deficiency. I therefore request of your Excellency as great a loan of that necessary article as the State of Connecticut can possibly spare, and that it be transported by the State to Fishkill.

If the measures . . .[75] I have the honor etc.[76]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, Friday, May 25, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

Peter McBride, Matross in the 2d. regiment of Artillery charged with "mutinous behavior"; Joel Wilmot and Elmer Russell, matrosses in the same regiment, charged with "Desertion", were tried by the General Court martial whereof Lieutenant Colonel Stephens is president, convicted and sentenced as follows vizt. Peter McBride to receive one hundred lashes on his bare back with hiccory rods: Joel Wilmot and Elmer Russell to receive one hundred lashes each on their bare backs. Major General St Clair approves the above sentences and orders them to be executed as soon as convenient.

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 27, 1781.

Sir: Last night I return'd from Weathersfield, where I have had an interview with His Excellency the Count de Rochambeau; in consequence of which, the French Army will

[75] The omitted portion is the same as the last paragraph in the preceding letter to Governor Hancock.

[76] In the writing of Henry Knox. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

On May 26 Washington received a letter from Lieut. Col. John Laurens, in Paris, that a French fleet under De Grasse was coming to America from the West Indies; that 6,000,000 livres had been donated by France to America, and that Laurens's "only hope of obtaining additional succor is founded on the exalted opinion which the Ministers have of your Excellency and every thing which comes from you." Laurens's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

commence its march, to form a junction with ours on the North River, as soon as circumstances will admit.

The accomplishment of the object . . .[77] *taken off* by the various casualties incident to an Army, besides such as have been discharged in consequence of the investigation made into the term of inlistment by the Committee appointed by your Assembly for that purpose. By this diminution and the want of success in recruiting; I find from the last Return there are 455 men now wanting to compleat the two Regts of your State.

From what has been premised . . .[77] which ought to be reckoned to the last of December.

On so great an occasion, I should hope that the Estimate would be made sufficiently large, and that the exertion in the several Counties would be so very vigorous and energetic as to give us every man we stand in need of, by the 1st. of July at farthest.

Arguments surely cannot be wanting . . .[77]

I have the honor etc.[78]

To PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 27, 1781.

Sir: I beg leave to inform your Excellency, that at a late conference between His Excellency the Count de Rochambeau and myself it has been agreed, that the principal part of the French Force shall march as soon as circumstances will admit, and form a junction with me upon the North River. The enemy have so exceedingly weakened themselves by repeated detachments to support the War to the southward, that a favourable opportunity seems to present itself of expelling them

[77] The omitted portion is the same as that found in the Circular to the New England States, May 24, 1781, *q. v.*

[78] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

from New York, or obliging them to recall part of their force to defend the extensive posts dependant upon that Garrison. Could this last be effected, it would essentially relieve the southern States.

Upon the most accurate calculation that I have been able to make, an operation against New York with its present Garrison will require all the Continental Battalions from New Jersey to New Hampshire inclusive fully compleated and the French Force now at Rhode Island. But as we cannot count upon the Battalions being full and as a Body of Militia will moreover be necessary for the investment of New York and its out posts, I have called upon the several States, from Pennsylvania to New Hampshire, to hold certain numbers in readiness to move within a week of the time at which I may require them, and to serve three months from the time they join the Army. The number allotted to Pennsylvania is 1600, which is in proportion to the Continental Battalions which she furnishes. Your Excellency will be pleased to give the necessary orders and to direct the necessary preparations of Arms and Camp Equipage.

I think it essential that the Legislature, at their present Session, should vest the Executive, during their recess, with powers of complying with such further requisitions of Men as I may be under the necessity of making, or of provisions and the means of transportation.

Your Excellency must be sensible that our principal difficulty will lie in subsisting so great a number of Men as we shall be obliged to draw together, and as our dependance for Bread must be in a great measure upon the State of Pennsylvania, I must take the liberty to refer you to my letter of the 5th. instant, which will give you a true idea of our prospects unless very decisive measures are speedily taken. I shall be

obliged by your letting me hear from you as soon as possible upon the quantity of Flour which we may with a tolerable degree of certainty, expect from the State. The importance of the object which we have in contemplation ought and I hope will induce Government to exert their utmost powers to procure a supply.

Applications for reinforcement to the southern Army no doubt have reached you thro' another Channel, but I cannot help mentioning the critical situation to which our affairs in that quarter are reduced for want of a permanent force, and expressing my earnest wishes that measures may be fallen upon to make up the deficiency of the Pennsylvania line. I have the honor etc.[79]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 27, 1781.

Sir: I do myself the honor to inform Congress that I returned from Weathersfield yesterday Evening. I met only his Excellency the Count de Rochambeau at that place [(accompanied by the Chevr. de Chartellux)]. The British Fleet having appeared off Block Island, the Count de Barras did not think it prudent to be absent.

In consequence of the measures concerted at the late interview, all the French Troops, except about 200 to be left as a Guard over their heavy Stores and Baggage at providence, are to march as soon as circumstances will admit, and form a junction with me upon the North River. Five hundred Militia are to be stationed upon Rhode Island for the preservation of the Works which have been erected and for the security of the Harbour.

[79] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Upon a full consideration of Affairs in every point of view, an operation against New York has been deemed preferable to making further detachments to the southward, while they can only be sent by land. The principal reasons which induced to this determination are as follow: The difficulty and expence of transportation; the lateness of the season which would throw the troops into the extremity of the heat of summer; the *great* waste of Men which we have ever experienced in so long a march at the healthiest season, and above all a strong presumption that the Enemy weakened as they now are by detachment, must either sacrifice the valuable post of New York and its dependencies or recall a part of their force from the southward to defend them.

The Continental Battalions from New Hampshire to New Jersey inclusive (supposing them compleat) aided by 4000 French Troops, and such a reinforcement of Militia as the operation after its commencement may seem to require, have been deemed adequate to the attempt upon New York with its present Garrison. But as the Battalions of those States are still *considerably* deficient I have written in the most pressing manner to the respective Legislatures to make up such deficiencies with Men for the Campaign only, if they cannot be obtained for a longer term; and have desired the Governors to hold certain numbers of Militia ready for service, should I have occasion to call for them. I am however determined to require no more than are absolutely necessary. I shall also call upon the State of Pennsylvania to hold 1600 Militia in readiness.[80]

[80]At this point in the draft the following is crossed out: "I could not learn that any further French Force was expected immediately in this quarter. A very considerable Fleet and Army have I imagine arrived by this time in the West Indies, but whether their operations are to be confined to those seas only, the Commanders here are not informed."

Congress have been made so fully acquainted with the difficulties of every kind under which the Military department labors, that they must be sensible that nothing but the most vigorous exertions on the part of the states to supply Men, provision, and the means of transportation can enable me to prosecute to effect the operation which I have agreed, in conjunction with the Army of our Ally, to undertake [or indeed any other]. At the time that I made my requisitions upon them, I summed up every argument in my power to induce a compliance, but should I find any hesitation, I shall hope for the countenance and support of Congress.

I am very apprehensive of a formidable invasion of the Northern frontier, as the Enemy from Canada are undoubtedly collecting in considerable force at Crown Point. Should this be the case it will cause a very unfortunate diversion [and be very embarrassing] just at this time, when our whole force will be required down here.

The necessity which I clearly foresee we shall be under of carrying every Man, who can be spared from other duties, into the Field, induces me to request an order that such Men of the Invalid Corps at Boston and Philada. as are fit for Garrison duty may be ordered to march to West point, where their services will be the same as those upon which they are now employed [and where they may be very useful].

There has been a necessity of abandoning the post of Fort Schuyler and removing the Garrison and Stores to the German Flats. The Barracks had been the beginning of this month consumed by fire and the Works so exceedingly damaged by the heavy rain storm that they were rendered indefensible, nor could they be repaired in any reasonable time by the number of Men who can be spared as a Garrison. Brigr. Genl. Clinton recommended the evacuation of the post, as the only

alternative, to which I the more readily consented, as it had been for some time past the opinion of the Officers best acquainted with that part of the Country, that a post at the German Flatts would be more easily supported and equally advantageous to the security of the Frontier.

Upon my return I found your Excellency's favors of the 17th. and 20th. and Mr. Secretary Thompson's[81] of the 10th. I shall pay due attention to their several Contents. I have the honor etc.[82]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, Sunday, May 27, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

The Commander in Chief is pleased to order that in future only such Men as are not expected to do duty with arms vizt. General, Field and Staff Officers servants, Waggoners, butchers, bakers, Commissaries, Quarter masters and Forage masters assistants and one armourer for each regiment in every brigade to which a travelling Forge is attach'd, be returned on Extra Service.

That all others on duty in Camp or Garrison, whether with arms, on Fatigue or occasionally employed as Artificers (except guards placed for the security of Magazines of Ammunition cloathing or provisions not in Garrison be returned Present on duty, and comprized in the number fit for Action.

That men detached beyond the ordinary limits of camp or garrison duty whether the service they are ordered on is to be perform'd with or without arms and all guards for Magazines not in Garrison be returned on Command.

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[81] Charles Thomson.

[82] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington. The letter was read in Congress on June 1, and the Board of War directed to take order so far as the Invalid Corps was concerned.

That the men On duty, Command and Extra service be accounted for with the utmost precision specifying where they are; what duty they are on; Time of absence; and by whose order.

That the troops on the lines and such as are on duty from the Continental Village to Fishkill and from Fort Montgomery to Newburgh inclusive except Magazine guards be considered fit for Action.

That as the regulated camp and garrison duty of every Brigade will in ordinary cases be comparatively the same the Adjutant General will not give Credit in his details for men on duty by any other than General Orders.

That the commanding officers of regiments and Corps cause Advertisements to be immediately inserted in the public newspapers requiring such of their men as are sick absent in different parts of the Country where military Hospitals are not established, or return'd absent under other heads and cannot be particularly accounted for to join their respective corps or give information where they are and the cause of their detention within a reasonable limited time on pain of being treated as deserters.

That no Physician or surgeon shall furlough a soldier on any pretence except within the vicinity of the Hospital where they may at anytime be called upon. When a change of air may contribute to re-establish the health of a convalescent patient or when a more than ordinary length of time is required to bring it about, the Physician or surgeon, having the direction of the hospital where such patient may be is to certify his case to the officer commanding the Brigade regiment or corps to which he belongs who may transmit him a Furlough provided his former Character merits the indulgence. That every sick soldier whose complaint requires his being removed from his

corps or command be sent to the Hospital if there be one within a convenient distance.

The brigade and regimental returns will be made in future agreeably to the Forms given out this day.

All absent officers not on public duty by order of the Commander in Chief or not appointed by proper authority under him to receive and forward on the recruits are to join their respective corps immediately, no other excuse can be admitted.

No more furloughs are to be given 'till the end of the Campaign, but in very extraordinary cases of which the General officer commanding the corps is to be the judge.

All soldiers upon Furlough are to be immediately order'd to join their respective regiments.

The Commander in Chief does in pointed and positive terms forbid under any pretence whatever commanding officers of regiments discharging soldiers before the term for which they are engaged is expired and he is equally pointed in forbidding the exchanging of men unless both are produced to the General officer commanding and his approbation obtained which is to be certified in the discharge.

No more recruits are to be discharged such as are thought unfit for Service by the Inspectors of the different State lines with the army are to be sent to the Adjutant General for further examination.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor,
Monday, May 28, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

Each regiment in the New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey lines is ordered to furnish two able bodied men (engaged for three years

or during the war) from the first recruits that join them, to be incorporated with the Corps of Sappers and Miners on the same principles with those already draughted for that corps.

That part of Colonel Van Schaick's regiment stationed at West Point is to be held in readiness to move on the shortest notice; all detachment, or men on other duty from it are to be immediately relieved and called in.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 28, 1781.

Dear Sir: Upon my return from Weathersfield the evening of the 26th I was favored with your two Letters of the 17th. and 22nd. Instant.

General St Clair had previously given some directions respecting the Military Stores which were wanted at the Northward. I have since referred the application to General Knox, who has made such farther arrangements for a supply, as our present circumstances would permit. In consequence of the determination to abandon Fort Schuyler, I have also thought it advisable to send an Engineer to have the superintendance and direction of the Fortifications which are to be erected, General Du Portail has been requested to order one accordingly.

The Six Companies of Col Van Schaicks Regiment, now at West Point, are put under marching Orders, that if occasion should require they might be transported to Albany immediately. But I am very unwilling to suffer any Troops to be removed from this quarter, unless there is a real necessity for it. And indeed it would be useless to send them, unless there is also a probability of their being supplied with Provisions.

Altho I am apprehensive the Enemy will attempt to make incursions on the frontier in the course of the Campaign; the

accounts as yet have been so vague and contradictory, that I know not what to believe respecting the present strength, disposition, and designs, of the British and Savages in Canada. As soon, and as frequently as you can obtain any intelligence that may be relied upon, I wish you to advise me of it. And also of every thing of moment, which appertains to the Troops under your Command, particularly of the state of your Supplies. I am etc.[83]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 28, 1781.

Dear Sir: As you are perfectly acquainted with the Measures which have been concerted with the Count De Rochambeau, I have only to request that you will be pleased to make all the necessary Estimates of Articles wanted in your Department, and also put the whole business for the Operation (so far as is within your reach) in the best train of execution, which our embarrassed circumstances will possibly admit.

Under the present appearances of an evacuation of New York, I think it will be more adviseable to draw the Stores from the Eastward, rather than from the Southward.

I enclose you a Letter from Brigr. General Clinton, and Capt Moodie respecting Stores for the Northward, part of which I understand from General St Clair, have been sent. I wish you to attend to the matter, and give such further Orders as you may think necessary on the subject. You will be so good as to return the Enclosures to me, when you have done with them. I am etc.[84] [MS. H. S.]

[83] In the writing of David Humphreys. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

[84] In the writing of David Humphreys.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL LOUIS LE BÈQUE DU PORTAIL

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 28, 1781.

Dear sir: As you are perfectly acquainted . . .[85]

In the mean time, as it has become necessary, from the decay of the Works, the demolition of the Barracks, and other circumstances, to abandon the Post of Fort Schuyler, and erect new Fortifications at or near Fort Herkimar,[86] I have to request that you will send an Engineer to superintend the Works in that Department. I am etc.[87]

To COLONEL ALEXANDER SCAMMELL

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 28, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have recd. your favors of the 24th. and 26th. instant. I am sorry that Capt. Ward did not give you an opportunity of meeting him. As the enemy seem to have removed themselves from the West side of the River, your remaining down where you now are will answer no purpose, you will therefore cross at King's ferry and take post at any convenient spot between Peekskill and Crompond.

If you can see Capt. Laurence before you move be pleased to present him my thanks for the services he has rendered you and desire him, if he meets W——[88] not to make him any promises of pardon or any thing else except he will engage to render some essential piece of service or to bring off a Body of his Men. He himself is of no manner of consequence, and I

[85] The omitted portion is practically the same as the first paragraph in the preceding letter to Brig. Gen. Henry Knox, the same date as this letter.

[86] Fort Herkimer.

[87] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

[88] Capt. Thomas Ward.

had rather he would remain with the Enemy than come off alone.

I do not know that there is a want of Officers in the Corps of Sappers, but should there be, it can only be in the Rank of subalterns, in which I do not imagine Capt. Lawrence would serve.

When you have got to your new Ground you will let me hear from you. I am etc.[89]

To COLONEL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 28, 1781.

Dear Sir: The late accounts from New York are mysterious and perplexing, but they at any rate demand that we should be in readiness to move. You will therefore concentre as much as possible your Brigade and put them under marching Orders. The parties at the Clove are not to be immediately called in, but the Officers commanding them warned to be in readiness. Should an evacuation of New York take place, as many strongly suspect, the troops under your command will be next in order for detachment, you will therefore desire the Officers to make preparation for a move more than merely to join the main Body of the Army.

As I am very anxious to learn what they are really doing in New York; you will oblige me by obtaining and sending me as accurate intelligence as possible. I am &c.

P. S. You will be pleased to forward the Letter to Genl Knyphausen by a flag.[90]

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[89] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[90] The draft is in the writings of Tench Tilghman. The P. S. is in the writing of David Humphreys, who has added the note that this letter was taken by the British "in last Week's Mail." A duplicate was forwarded to Dayton on June 4.

*To DOCTOR JOHN BAKER

New Windsor, May 29, 1781.

Sir: A day or two ago I requested Colo. Harrison to apply to you for a pair of Pincers to fasten the wire of my teeth. I hope you furnished him with them. I now wish you would send me one of your scrapers, as my teeth stand in need of cleaning, and I have little prospect of being in Philadelpa. soon. It will come very safe by the Post, and in Return, the money shall be sent so soon as I know the cost of it. I am, etc.[91]

[C. L.]

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 29, 1781.

Gentlemen: I have been honored with your favors of the 13th. 14th. and 17th. instants. My late absence from the Army prevented my acknowledging them sooner.

If the Uniforms which were fixed upon for the Troops of the States of North and South Carolina have not been ordered from Europe, I do not see that any inconvenience can attend the proposed alteration. I think, however, the Lace ought to be dispensed with as altogether superfluous and very expensive.

It seems reasonable that a due proportion should be observed between the pay of the deputies and principals in any department, and as Congress were pleased to augment the Salary of Mr. Laurance the Judge Advocate General very considerably by the Resolve of the 10th. of Novemr. there can I think be no impropriety in augmenting the salaries of the Deputies also to 60 dollars pr month which is what they request.

[91] The letter was intercepted by the British.

Sir Henry Clinton has informed me that it is not in his power to permit the transportation of Tobacco from Virginia to Charles town. I imagine there are some Commercial Regulations in the way. But he says that he mentioned certain Articles to Colo. Magaw and Colo. Ely, which might be sent in and sold for the benefit of our prisoners; what they were I do not exactly recollect, but I think Lumber and Iron. I have the honor etc.[92]

To CHARLES THOMSON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 29, 1781.

Sir: Upon my return from Weathersfield I found your favor of the 10th. instant. There never has been any regular establishment of the department of Geographer to the Army; but the pay that has heretofore, and is now allowed to the principal in this quarter is four Dollars pr day, and four Rations; with an allowance for incidental Charges, such as travelling from place to place and for provisions for himself and Party when out of reach of the Magazines of the Army. The Assistants have had two Dollars pr day. The Chain Bearers have been drawn from the Army occasionally, and are allowed half a dollar extra pr day while upon service.

Proper attention has been paid to the other Resolves contained in yours. I have the honor etc.[93]

[92] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. The following unfinished P. S. is crossed out: "Genl. Knyphausen has requested permission for a Hessian Surgeon with Medicines and Hospital Stores to proceed to Philada. and remain with the prisoners, under any restrictions which may be imposed. If there will be no impropriety in granting his request, be pleased to say under what injunctions the."

[93] In the writing of David Humphreys and signed by Washington. This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, no. 152. Both the draft, which is by Tilghman, and duplicate have the note thereon by Humphreys; that this duplicate was forwarded June 5, the original having been "captured in the Mail by the Enemy's Emissaries."

*To JOHN SULLIVAN

Head Qrs., New Windsor, May 29, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have been favoured with your two letters of the 2d. and 17th. of May; the former reached me at Weathersfield after I had met the Count de Rochambeau at that place; from which time to the present moment, my whole attention has been so occupied by a variety of concerns, that I have been hitherto involuntarily prevented from doing myself the pleasure of writing to you.

No Arguments were necessary to convince me of the very great public utility, which would result from the success of the plan, you proposed laying before Congress. Had I been unapprised of the advantages which might be derived to our cause from a successful attempt, or even a powerful diversion in that quarter, the reasons you have offered, would have carried irrefragable demonstration with them, and induced me to be of your opinion. But the perplexed, distressed and embarrassed state of our Affairs, on acct. of Supplies (with which you are well acquainted). The languid efforts of the States to procure Men, and the insuperable difficulties in the way of transportation, would I apprehend, have rendered the scheme (however devoutly to be wished and desired) abortive in the first instance. And I must inform you, there is yet another obstacle, which makes the attempt you have suggested,[94] *absolutely impracticable* with the means you propose, but which I dare not commit to paper, for fear of the same misfortune which has already happened to some of my letters.

You will have seen, before the receipt of this, by my public letter to Congress of the 27th. Instt., the result of the deliberations

[94] An expedition against Canada. (See Sullivan's letter to Washington, May 2, 1781, in the *Washington Papers.*)

of the Count de Rochambeau and myself at Weathersfield. That plan, upon the maturest consideration, and after combining all the present circumstances and future prospects, appeared (though precarious) far the most eligible of any we could possibly devise whilst we are inferior at Sea. The object was considered to be, of greater magnitude, and more within our reach than any other. The weakness of the Garrison of New York, the centrical position for drawing together Men and Supplies; and the spur, which an attempt against that place, wd. give to every exertion, were among the reasons which prompted to that undertaking, and which promised the fairest prospect of success, unless the enemy should recall a considerable part of their force from the Southward. And even in this case, the same measure which might produce disappointment in one quarter, would certainly in the event afford the greatest relief in another. While an oppertunity presents itself of striking the enemy a fatal blow I will perswade myself, the concurring exertions of Congress, of the several States immediately concerned, and of every individual in them, who is well affected to our cause, will be united in yielding every possible aid on the occasion. At this crisis, while I rejoice at the appointment of the Minister of Finance, I have sincerely to regret, that the Ministers of the other departments have not also been appointed especially a Minister of War. At the same time I am happy to learn, the mode of promotion is on the point of being finally established. With the highest Sentiments of regard etc.[95] [C.L.]

[95] The draft, which is in the writing of David Humphreys, with several changes by Washington, has this note: "June 4th Duplicate. The original in my own handwriting, supposed to be taken and carried into New York."

Clinton wrote to Germain (June 9, 1781), shortly after coming into possession of the above Washington letter: "I shall act offensively or defensively, as Circumstances may make necessary. But by some lately intercepted Dispatches . . . your Lordship will perceive that it is not likely the Choice will be left to me for some months to

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, Tuesday, May 29, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

At a Garrison Court martial held at Philadelphia the 4th. of April 1781, by order of Major General St. Clair, whereof Major James Moore[96] was President.

Lieutenant John Bigham[97] of the 5th. Pennsylvania Regiment, charged for "Spending or misapplying money given to him for the purpose of paying the third bounty to recruits" was tried, found Guilty of the charge being a breach of the 4th. article 12th. section of the articles of war and sentenced to be Cashiered.

The Commander in Chief Approves the sentence. He is sorry he cannot in compliance with the Recommendation of the Court restore Lieutenant Bigham to his former Rank and Command. The reasons which have been assigned by him for applying the public money committed to his care to other purposes than those for which it was intended are not in the General's opinion sufficient to justify the breach of Trust.

At a General Court Martial held at the Park of Artillery by order of Major General St. Clair and continued by adjournments from the 22d to the 26th. of May inclusive. Lieutenant Colonel Stephens President.

Lewis Seely, Matross in the 2d. regiment of Artillery charged with "Repeated Desertion."

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come." Clinton estimated Washington's force, combined with the French, as 20,000 fit for duty. "My present Force is 9997 Rank and File fit for Duty." He felt that he could not trust the New York loyalist militia and that his numbers were "very inadequate." However, he was "under no Apprehensions, while our Fleet is superior to that of the Enemy and I can draw Reinforcement from Chesapeak. For should it be otherwise, and the Enemy command Long Island Sound, such Force might be passed over into that Island, as might make our Situation here more Critical."—C. O. 5, 102, fols. 312, et seq., *British Transcripts*, in the Library of Congress.

[96] Of the First Pennsylvania Regiment. He served to November, 1783.

[97] Lieut. John Bingham.

Benjamin Harley, Matross in the 3d regiment charged with "Desertion and reinlisting" and

Robert Barber, Matross in the same regiment charged with "Desertion and attempting to go to the Enemy" were tried found Guilty and sentenced to suffer Death more than two thirds of the Court agreeing thereto.

The Commander in Chief approves the above sentences.

John Hennessee, soldier in the late 4th New York regiment charged "with Desertion and endeavouring to go to the enemy tried by the General Court martial held at West Point the 19th. instant whereof Major Moses Ashley was president, and William King of the 1st. New York regiment charged with "Desertion" tried by the General Court martial held at West Point by order of Brigadier General Patterson the 22d. instant whereof Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Smith was President, were found Guilty and sentenced to suffer Death more than two thirds of each Court agreeing.

The Commander in Chief approves the above sentences.

Untill a more extensive plan for exercising and manœuvring can be adopted the Commander in Chief hopes and expects Officers of every rank will pay particular attention to the instruction of their recruits agreeably to the fifth Chapter of the Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Army; and the Exercising such of their men as are already acquainted with the different Articles explained in the fifth agreeably to the sixth Chapter of the same Regulations.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 30, 1781.

Sir: I am honored with your Excellency's favors of the 23d and 24th. Insts. I am sorry that you took the trouble to trans-

scribe the Dispatches from General Greene, as I had received them immediately from him. It is to be regretted that so small an accident should have turned the fortune of the day before Campden. The General's conduct however in the action, and the perseverance with which he pursues his plan, notwithstanding his disaster, do him infinite honor.

There have been various reports for several days past that a further embarkation was taking place at New York, and some have even gone so far as to suppose a total evacuation of the place was in contemplation. I have an account thro a pretty good channel, as late as the 27th. Inst. in which nothing of the kind is mentioned. There had been some very uncommon movements among the Troops upon Long Island, which may have given rise to the Conjecture I have spoken of. My informant says that Pensacola is taken, and that General Robertson goes to Virginia to succeed General Phillips. I have the honor etc.[98]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor,
Wednesday, May 30, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

The Honorable the Congress have been pleased to pass the following Resolves:

By the United States in Congress assembled May 4th, 1781.

Resolved, That Thomas Hutchins be appointed geographer to the Southern army, with the same pay and emoluments as are allowed to the geographer to the main army.

May 18th. 1781.

Resolved That the Commander in Chief be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to arrange the brigade chaplains of the several State

[98] In the writing of David Humphreys, and noted by him: "June 5th (Duplicate) The original was intercepted by the Enemy."

lines serving with the army, and the commanding general of the southern army those of line serving with that army; so as to retain in service no more chaplains of each line than are equal to the number of brigades:

That every chaplain deemed and certified to the Board of War to be supernumerary, be no longer continued in service, and be entitled to have their depreciation made good, and to the half-pay of captains for life.

Resolved that the commanding general at West point for the time being receive the extra allowance granted by Congress to an officer commanding in a seperate department until the further order of Congress.

As a considerable proportion of the troops in this Army will consist of recruits but little accustomed to military service, and as the season for commencing the Campaign is so near at hand as to afford but a small opportunity at best of initiating them in the duties of their profession, the General is extremely sollicitous that the intermediate space between the present moment and that of taking the Field should be wholly occupied in disciplining and forming them.

He calls upon the officers of every rank in the most earnest and pressing manner to devote themselves personally and unremittingly (agreeably to the orders of yesterday) to an object of such vast importance to their own Reputation as well as the Good of the Public Service.

The Adjutant General will be pleased also to superintend the Exercising and manœuvring of the troops so far as their dispersed situation and the other duties of his office will permit; he will begin with the Guards of the Commander in Chief, and attend the Cantonments of the other Corps at such times as he shall appoint; he is requested likewise to report with great precision from time to time the State of the discipline of the several regiments noting the extraordinary proficiency that any particular Corps may make and the apparent want of it which may be visible in any others.

As soon as the Army is drawn together the Commander in Chief will judge for himself of the attention which shall have been paid to this order.

Colonel Hazen's regiment to hold itself in readiness to march on the shortest notice.

The Adjutant General will inspect the Rhode Island regiment on Saturday next it is therefore ordered to be in as collected a state as possible and under Arms for that purpose at six o'clock in the morning of that day.

To PHILIP SCHUYLER

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 30, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have recd. your favors of the 14th: 21st. and 22d instants. From circumstances it appears the last should have been dated upon the 21st. also.

There is little doubt but the enemy are preparing to cross the Lake with as much force as they can spare, but I cannot believe in such numbers as Higginbottom[99] reports. His account is very extraordinary. He says at one time that 4000 Men were already assembled at Crown point, and in his particular examination before you, he recites the different places of Cantonment of the Regiments which were still in Canada. However that we may be prepared to give them as good a reception as our small force and as our other plans will admit I hold the six Companies of Van Schaicks Regt. which are here and Hazens Regiment in readiness to move at a Moments warning.

There are conjectures, but I cannot say I have confidence in the reports, that the enemy are about to evacuate New York. If they do this, it must be with an intent to secure as much as they possibly can to the southward, and perhaps enter into

[99] David Higgenbottom. He was a corporal in the Thirty-first Foot, British Army.

a negociation, full handed. By the latest accounts from the southward, General Greene was near Campden, before which he had had a sharp Action with Lord Rawdon. Lord Cornwallis seemed to be moving towards Hallifax. The British in Virginia were still at petersburgh on the 18th. inst. under the Command of Arnold; Genl. Phillips having died of a fever a few days before. We have not yet heard what has become of the detachment which sailed from New York on the 13th.

You may assure the person who found the Mortars of the reward you promised him, and more in proportion for any further discoveries.[1] I will send you the money by the first safe opportunity, or give it you when I shall have the pleasure of seeing you this way at the meeting of the Assembly.[2] I am etc.[3]

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 30, 1781.

Gentlemen: Inclosed are the Copies of the letters and papers from the Marquis de la Fayette transmitted in yours of the 26th:

I have recd. Mr. Carletons[4] letter of the 22d. inclosing one from Capt. Swan[5] on the subject of what he conceives an injury respecting his Rank. As he states no particulars, I do not know upon what he founds his claim to the Majority of the 1st. Regt. But of this I am certain, that the date of his present Commission can alone determine the point, as he entered the service a Captain the beginning of the year 1777, and consequently can have no prior claims. I have the honor etc.

[1] Four brass mortars which were sunk by the British. The man thought he could also find three brass fieldpieces. Schuyler promised him $25, but had no money with which to pay.

[2] The New York Assembly, of which Schuyler was then a senator.

[3] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[4] Joseph Carleton. He was secretary to the Board of War.

[5] Capt. John Swan, of the Third Continental Dragoons. He was appointed major of the First Continental Dragoons from October, 1780, and served to the close of the war.

(June 5th Duplicate.)

The Original was intercepted in the last mail with the *Copies,* of which it is impossible for the Gentlemen of my family to make out Duplicates, at prest and perform the other indispensable duties of the Office.[6]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 30, 1781.

Dear Sir: I fully intended in my letter of the 14th. to have desired you to return to this Army, but I might probably in the hurry of business have forgot to give the Gentleman who wrote it instructions to that purpose. Should this find you in Philada. you will look upon yourself fully at liberty to return, or proceed to the southward should your inclinations lead you to prefer that service to this. I am etc.

The Campaign here will probably be full as active as that to the southward.[7]

To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 31, 1781.

My dear Marquis: I have received your favors of the 4th. 8th. 17th. and 18th. instants, your conduct upon every occasion meets my approbation, but in none more than your refusal to hold a correspondence with Arnold.[8] By an account

[6] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. The note of June 5 is in the writing of David Humphreys.

[7] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[8] "Genl. Phillips being dead of a fever, an Officer was sent with a passport and letters from Genl. Arnold. I requested the Gentleman to come to my Qrs. and having asked *if Genl. Phillips was dead* to which he answered in the negative, I made it a pretence not to receive a letter from Gl. Arnold, which being dated *Head Quarters,*

which I have just received from New York, Genl. Robinson[9] goes to succeed Genl. Phillips. You may have something to apprehend from his age and experience but not much from his Activity.

In a letter which I wrote to Baron Steuben on the 16th. instant, I desired him to inform you, as I did not know at that time where you might be, that I had good reason to believe a detachment of between 1500 and 2000 Men had sailed from New York a few days before. I now have it confirmed, and I think you may either look for them in Chesapeak or further southward.

Your determination to avoid an engagement, with your present force, is certainly judicious. I hope the Pennsylvanians have began their march before this, but I have no information of it. General Wayne has been pressed both by Congress, and the Board of War to make as much expedition as possible and extraordinary powers are given to him to enable him to procure provision.

Upon your intimation that Colonel Vose wished to return to the Northward, I ordered Colo. Tupper to releive him, and he had sat out before your letter of the 4th. reached me. I am etc.[10] [C.L.]

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and directed to the Commanding Officer of the American Troops, ought to come from the British General Chief in Command. I did however observe that should any other Officer have written to me I would have been happy to receive their Letters. The next day the Officer returned with the same Passport and letter, and informed me that He was now at liberty to declare that Phillips was dead, and Arnold was Com'dr in Chief of the British Army in Virginia; the high station of General Arnold having obliged me to an explanation, the inclosed Note was sent to the Officer of the Flag and the American Officer verbally assured him that was I requested to put in writing a minute Account of my motives my regard for the British Army was such that I wou'd chearfully comply with the Demand."—*Lafayette to Washington,* May 17, 1781. Lafayette's letter is in the *Washington Papers.* The copy of Lafayette's note to the British flag officer is not found in these papers.

[9] Maj. Gen. James Robertson.

[10] In the writing of Tench Tilghman. The draft has the following note by Humphreys: "June 4th Duplicate. The Original supposed to have been taken in the last Mail."

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor,
Thursday, May 31, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

Lieutenant William Eysandeau[11] of the 5th Massachusetts regiment is appointed untill further orders to superintend the General Military Hospital.

To COLONEL ELISHA SHELDON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 31, 1781.

Sir: You will immediately put your Corps under marching Orders, and make every possible provision for a movement. It is the intention of this Order, that the whole of the Infantry and all of the Cavalry who have been or can be prepared for the field, should be held in the most perfect readiness to march on the shortest notice.

Whatever articles there are in the Stores, which are absolutely necessary for your men before they march, you will draw on your own *Return,* taking care not to extend the *Return* beyond the Articles now actually wanting, and which cannot be dispensed with, and reporting the same, together with a minute state of your Regt on your arrival at the Army.

As you will before this time be able, to determine what the State of Connecticut will do respecting Mounting and equipping the Dismounted Dragoons of your Regt.; if there should be a probability of effecting this, and it cannot be compleated previous to your marching, in that case you will be at liberty to leave an Officer (and a few Dragoons, if necessary) to assist

[11] He served to November, 1783.

in collecting and bringing on the Horses and Accoutrements, and carrying the resolution of the State effectually into execution. I am etc.[12]

*To JOHN PARKE CUSTIS

New Windsor, May 31, 1781.

Dear Custis: (On Saturday last I returned from a Conference held with the Count de Rochambeau at Weathersfield, and found Mrs. Washington very unwell, as she had been for five or Six days preceeding, and still continues). Her complaint was in the Stomach, billious, and now turned to a kind of Jaundice; but she is better than she has been. though still weak and low. As she is very desirous of seeing you, and as it is abt. the period for her returning to Virginia, I should be glad, if it does not interfere with any important engagements, if you could make her a visit. That you may not be alarmed, and on that acct. use unnecessary speed, I think it incumbent on me to add, that I do not conceive that she is in any kind of danger.

We have not yet heard what is become the detachment that left New York the 13th. Instt. and do not know whether it was destined for Virginia, Cape Fear, or elsewhere. It is now strongly reported, and believed by numbers, that the enemy are about a total evacuation of New York but I shall suspend my opinion of the matter till there is clearer evidence of it.

The States this way, are miserably slow in sending in their recruits for the Army, and our supplies come in equally tardily; whether the Season, and the prospects before them, will

[12] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

Washington wrote also a brief note, inclosing the above letter to Sheldon to Major Tallmadge for forwarding.

On May 31 Washington wrote to Major Villefranche, ordering him to Albany and to take orders from Brig. Gen. James Clinton. These drafts are in the *Washington Papers*.

produce any change I am unable to say. I join Mrs. Washington very sincerely in affectionate regards for yourself, Nelly, and the Children and am with much truth Yrs.[13]

*To THE MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

New Windsor, May 31, 1781.

My dear Marqs: I have just returned from Weathersfield at which I expected to have met the Count de Rochambeau and Count de Barras, but the British fleet having made its appearance off Block Island, the Admiral did not think it prudent to leave Newport. Count Rochambeau was only attended by Chevr. Chattellux; Generals Knox and Duportail were with me.

Upon a full consideration of our affairs in every point of view, an attempt upon New York with its present Garrison (which by estimation is reduced to 4500 regular Troops and about 3000 irregulars) was deemed preferable to a Southern operation as we had not the Command of the Water. The reasons which induced this determination were, the danger to be apprehended from the approaching heats, the inevitable dissipation and loss of Men by so long a March, and the difficulty of transportation; but above all, it was thought that we had a tolerable prospect of expelling the enemy or obliging them to withdraw part of their force from the Southward, which last would give the most effectual relief to those States. The French Troops are to March this way as soon as certain circumstances will admit, leaving about 200 Men at Providence with the heavy Stores and 500 Militia upon Rhode Island to secure the Works.

I am endeavouring to prevail upon the States to fill up their Battalions, for the Campaign; if they cannot do it upon better

[13] Intercepted by the British.

terms, and to send in ample and regular supplies of Provision. Thus you perceive it will be sometime before our plan can be ripe for execution, and that a failure on our part in Men and Supplies may defeat it; but I am in hopes that the States in this quarter will exert themselves to attain what has long been a favourite and is an important object to them.

We have rumours, but I cannot say they are well founded, that the enemy are about to quit New Yk. altogether. Should they do this we must follow them of necessity, as they can have no other view than endeavouring to sieze and secure the Southern States, if not to hold them finally, to make them the means of an advantageous Negociation of Peace.

I take it for granted that your last dispatches inform you fully of European Affairs and that you can judge from them of the probability of such an event as I have mentioned taking place. As you have no cypher by which I can write I can write to you in safety, and my letters have been frequently intercepted of late I restrain myself from mentioning many matters I wish to communicate to you.

I shall advise you every now and then of the progress of our preparations. It would be unnecessary for you to be here at present, and I am sure you would not wish to leave your charge while you are so near an enemy, or untill you could deliver them up to General Greene or to another officer capable of exercising the command which you are in. You will always remember My dear Marquis that your return to this army depends upon your own choice, and that I am with every sentiment of esteem regd. and Affecte. Yr. etc.

P. S. My public letter contains an answer to your several favors. We have just heard from New York that Genl. Robinson is going to supply the place of Philips.[14] [C.L.]

[14] Intercepted by the British.

*To LUND WASHINGTON

New Windsor, May 31, 1781.

Dear Lund: I returned last Saturday from a conference with the Count de Rochambeau at Weathersfield, or Connecticut River, and found your letter of the 9th. Instt; and the last Post brought me another of the 16th.

We have heard nothing yet of the detachment (consisting of about 2000 Men) which left New York the 13th. Instt., nor do we know whether those Troops were bound for Virginia, North or South Carolina, or elsewhere. A report prevails, and is believed by some, that the enemy are about to quit New York altogether, but I shall withhold my opinion of the matter yet a little longer. If such an event should take place it will be an evidence in my Mind that they expect matters are drawing to a conclusion and that they have a Mind to get as fast hold on the Southern States as possible.

I have already given you my opinion (in some late letters) with respect to my moveable property, after removing the most valuable, and least bulky articles the rest, with the buildings, must take their chance. I am prepared for the worst that can happen to them, to hear therefore of their being plundered, or burnt, will be no surprize to me. In case a body of Troops should come into that part of the Country (belonging to the Enemy) public, as well private considerations, require that Horses and Stock of all kinds should be driven out of their reach.

Mrs. Washington who has been very sick for more than ten days, and still continues so, joins me sincerely in offering best wishes to you and Mrs. Washington and Milly Posey. I am etc.

PS. By your figures in your letter of the 9th. I do not know whether the number of your Lambs is 118 or 218.[15]

[15] Intercepted by the British.

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 1, 1781.

My Dear Sir: I have recd. your favrs. of the 22d. and 27th. of April inclosing Copies of your letters to Congress. The difficulties which you daily encounter and surmount with your small force add not a little to your reputation, and I am pretty well assured that should you be obliged finally to withdraw from south and even from North Carolina, it will not be attributed to either your want of Abilities or of exertion, but to the true cause, the want of means to support the War in them.

I feel for your mortification at the loss of the day before Campden, after it seemed so much in your favor, but I hope you will have found that the Enemy suffered severely, as in their publication of the affair in the New York paper they confess the loss of 200. The reduction of Fort Watson does honor to General Marion and Colo. Lee.[16]

I have lately had an interview with Count de Rochambeau at Weathersfield. Our Affairs were very attentively considered in every point of view, and it was finally determined to make an attempt upon New York with its present Garrison in preference to a southern operation, as we had not the decided command of the Water. You will readily suppose the reasons which induced this determination, were the inevitable loss of Men from so long a march, more especially in the approaching hot season, and the difficulty, I may say impossibility of transporting the necessary Baggage, Artillery and Stores by land. I am in hopes if I am supported as I ought to be by the neighbouring States in this, which you know has always been their favourite operation, that one of these consequences will

[16] Lieut. Col. Henry Lee.

follow, the enemy will be expelled from the most valuable position which they hold upon the Continent or they will be obliged to recall part of their force from the southward to defend it. Should this last happen, You will be most essentially relieved by it. The French troops will begin their march this way as soon as certain circumstances will admit. I can only give you the outline of our plan. The dangers to which letters are exposed make it improper to commit particulars to paper, but as matters ripen I will keep you as well informed as circumstances will allow.

A detachment of between 1500 and 2000 Men sailed from New York about the 13th. May. I advised Baron Steuben of this and desired him to communicate it to you. I conclude they will either stop in Chesapeak, or in Cape Fear except the operations of the spaniards in the Floridas should call for reinforcement to that Quarter: But I can hardly flatter myself that they will attend to the preservation of Augustine. Pensacola we are told has fallen.

The Marquis de la Fayette informed me, that about 800 Recruits would be ready to march from Virginia the later end of May. I have no certain accounts from Maryland lately but I was told by a Gentleman from thence, that about 400 might be expected to march in April. I make not doubt but you are kept regularly advised by the superintending Officer.

I have not heard that General Wayne had left York Town, but I have reason to believe that he has gone before this time. If no fresh discontents arise among those troops; the detachment with Wayne will be a most valuable acquisition to you. They are chiefly the old Soldiers and compleatly furnished with every necessary. I am &c.[17]

[17] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To COLONEL CHARLES PETTIT

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 1, 1781.

Sir: I some time ago had a number of Blank Books made for transcribing the General Orders and other public records.[18] A few have been used for these purposes but the package containing the remainder has been by some means lost. I have sent to every place at which my Baggage has been deposited but can hear nothing of it, and except it should be at Colo. Biddles, in whose care part of my things were left when we marched from Middle Brook Camp, I must give it up. You will be pleased to make inquiry there, and should the Box not be found you will oblige me by having 24 Books made of good Record paper; 5 Quire in each; bound in rough Leather, the Backs Vellum; size 14½ by 10 Inches. This will make them uniform with those already transcribed. I shall be glad to have them as soon as possible, as Business is at a stand for want of them. Should you find a difficulty in procuring them on account of the low state of public credit, I will become answerable for the Amount. I am &c.[19]

To OLIVER PHELPS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 1, 1781.

Sir: I am much obliged to you for the expression of your regard. The Ox was a beautiful Creature, and proves to be in goodness, when killed, equal to his appearance when living. I hope we may not want for a plenty (though of inferior quality to this) through the Campaign.

More concerned for the supplies of the Army, than of myself, I am anxious to hear the success of General Heath's

[18] The Varick Transcripts now in the Library of Congress.
[19] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

negociation with the Eastern States; it is from them alone we expect a regular supply of Beef Cattle, and I flatter myself they are so well acquainted with the circumstances, that they will not disappoint our expectations. I am etc.[20]

To CAPTAIN BARTHOLOMEW VON HEER

Head Quarters, New Jersey, June 1, 1781.

Sir: I have been favored with your Letter of the 25 Inst. together with the several Enclosures, by your Dragoon the day before yesterday; prior business prevented my dispatching him, untill this time.

It gives me great pleasure to find by the Papers transmitted in your Letter, that no part of the embarrassment and distresses of your Troop is owing to want of attention or care in you; but on the contrary that you have made use of every proper application and exertion to put your Corps on a respectable footing for taking the field with reputation to themselves, and a prospect of advantage to the Public. We have only to lament, that the circumstances have been such, as to prevent your efforts from being attended with the desired success.

I must confess, I can see no reason why the Men of your Troop, if they are considered and credited as part of the quota of Pennsylvania, should not be entitled to the same pay, depreciation of pay, and all other emoluments, which have been granted to the other Troops raised in that State. As it is certainly reasonable, and highly expedient, I cannot but hope the State, or Congress, upon further representation, will take up the matter again, and do something effectual to relieve the present wants of the Corps, as well as make a more permanent provision for the Officers and men of it.

[20] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

With respect to remounting your dismounted Dragoons, with tolerably good Horses, I fear there will be almost insuperable obstacles in the way. It is true the Quarter Master General has been ordered long since to purchase Horses to mount the several Corps of Cavalry, but the misfortune is, Money has been, and still is wanting. All that can be done at present is to direct him to supply the best Horses in his possession, for this service, untill better can be obtained for you, which I sincerely wish may be soon effected, as I consider your Troop of essential utility to the Army; having had ample experience of their fidelity and promptness in executing their duty on every occasion.

I will rely upon your zeal and activity to do, every thing that can be done, to put the Corps immediately in as good Order as possible for taking the field, the moment you shall receive Orders to March. I am etc.[21] [H.S.P.]

To BARON VON KNYPHAUSEN

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 1, 1781.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's letter of the 17th ulto. I am sorry that you should have occasion to complain of the treatment of Lieut. Sobbe and Quarter Masr. Hartzog while under the protection of my passport in Philada. You may be assured that it is not my wish to countenance either unpolite or improper behaviour towards Gentlemen in their situation, and that due inquiry shall be made into the reasons of Mr. Bradfords conduct.

A similar indulgence never having been allowed to us, I cannot consent that a Surgeon shall remain with the Hessian prisoners of War, but any Medicines or Hospital Stores which you

[21] In the writing of David Humphreys.

may incline to send them, shall be carefully kept for their use and dispensed to them occasionally by the Surgeons of our Hospital who are appointed to attend them. I have the Honor etc.[22]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, Friday, June 1, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

Commanding officers of regiments and brigades are desired to pay particular attention to prevent the soldiers from injuring their hutts when they quit them, and to warn the inhabitants in the vicinity not to meddle with or destroy them.

The six companies of Colonel Van Schaick's regiment at West Point to be ready to move as soon as the Quarter master General has provided Vessels.

The Regimental Quarter Master to apply to the Quarter master general to know when the vessels will be ready and at what place.

*To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

New Windsor, June 2, 1781.

Dear Sir: The misterious conduct of the enemy at New York, and their appearance in force (as it is reported to me) at Crown point, with other circumstances unnecessary to detail, renders caution and vigilance extremely necessary at our Posts in the Highlands. I therefore desire that you will not delay a moment after your return to West point and to your command there in

[22] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

On June 1 Tilghman wrote to Pickering ordering vessels prepared to transport six companies of Van Schaick's regiment and Hazen's regiment to Albany. Tilghman's letter is in the *Washington Papers*. Washington's *Diary* states that these troops were sent because some intercepted letters gave the British the strength and location of the American troops about Albany and urged the enemy to move rapidly upon that place.

obtaining and reporting to me an exact state of the Provision and Water in the different Redoubts; that you will see each of them, especially those wch. are most remote and difficult to support as well supplied as our means will admit with Provision, and that every precaution is taken to prevent injury and waste of it, which I am told is by no means the case at present.

It will also be necessary to have Troops assigned to each work and your disposition for the defence of them so perfectly made as that no confusion or delay may ensue in case of a sudden call. In doing this let there be as little seperation of Corps, and of Men from their Officers, as the nature of the case will admit. The security of the Magazine is an object which requires much care and industry and I recommend it accordingly to your closest attention while you remain at the Post. I am etc.

PS. I believe there is a loud call for more cleanliness in and about the Barracks and Works and recommend a reformation to your particular attention that the health of the Soldiers may be preserved.

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM GREENE

New Windsor, June 2, 1781.

Sir: There are certain heavy cannon in the State of Rhode Island which are exceedingly wanted in the proposed operations of the campaign. These have been returned as belonging to the Continent, but it is said some of them are claimed as the property of the State. Your Excellency can determine this matter, and if they are proven the property of the State I must request the loan of as many as will make up the number eight, of those which are not disputed, if there are any of that discription, if not, the whole of the above number.

The importance of the object in view, and the apparent probability of success, will, I am persuaded, induce the State of Rhode

Island to comply with this request, especially when it shall be considered that our non success may be attributed to the withholding the means in our possession.

Major Perkins of the artillery, who is at Providence, will receive the cannon and superintend the transportation of them to camp. The situation of the Q. M. General's department, for want of money, will probably oblige him to apply to the State for assistance, which I hope will be given to him, to ensure the transportation of these and other articles which Major Perkins will have orders to bring on from Rhode Island. I have the honor etc.[23]

To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

New Windsor, June 2, 1781.

Sir: The proposed operations of the campaign will occasion such a demand for heavy cannon and military stores, as to exceed the number and quantity of these articles immediately in possession of the Continent. This insufficiency obliges me to apply to such of the neighbouring States as can afford us any assistance, with a full confidence that the importance of the object and the apparent probability of success will induce a ready compliance, according to their respective abilities.

If the States do not give the assistance requested, the most favorable moment that has happened during the war will be lost, and our weakness be too conspicuous, as well to our Allies as to our enemies.

Upon these principles I apply to the State of Massachusetts for the loan, for the campaign, of 8 pieces of heavy cannon with travelling carriages, either 24 or 18 pounders as may be most convenient and for the delivery of two 13 inch sea mortars

[23] From a contemporary copy in the writing of Henry Knox. The original is in the Frederick S. Peck collection, Providence, R. I.

which the enemy left at Boston when they evacuated it in 1776. Col. Crane, who is in Boston, will receive and endeavour to transport them to this river. The situation of the Quarter Master's department, for want of money, also constrains me to request the State to give the Dy. Q. Master, and Col. Crane the necessary assistance to forward these and other essential articles.

The urgency of knowing as soon as possible what we shall have to depend upon, induces me to request an immediate answer to this, and my letter of the 25th ulto from Weathersfield, respecting the loan of Powder. I have the honor etc.[24]

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 2, 1781.

Sir: I am honored with your Excellency's favor of the 28th. Ulto. I flatter myself the Count de Barras will meet with no interruption on his passage, as I have reason to believe that the British Fleet are off the Hook.

I have deferred writing to your Excellency, in hopes that I should have been able to have learnt, with certainty, whether there was any thing in the report which Genl St. Clair forwarded to me at Weathersfield of a further embarkation of troops and an intention to evacuate New York. By the best information which I have received, I do not find that either is in agitation. A Fleet of Merchantmen will sail shortly for Europe.

When at Weathersfield, I gave your Excellency a Sketch of what force I imagined we should be able to bring into the Field this Campaign. As my calculation was founded upon probability and not upon any assurances from the States that they would furnish the Men, I beg your Excellency will not consider that Estimate [as official] or definitive.

[24] From a contemporary copy in the writing of Henry Knox.

Your dispatches for His Excellency the Minister were immediately forwarded.

The opportunity for the entrance of the expected Convoy is so favorable, that I think there is little danger to be apprehended upon this Coast.

General Greene, by letters from him of the 27th. of April, was still before Campden in South Carolina. Lord Rawdon had, on the 25th, made a vigorous sally with his whole force, in which he only succeeded so far as to oblige Genl. Greene to remove a mile or two. Our loss on the occasion was 17 Killed and 96 wounded. The Enemy confess their loss about 200; we brought off about 50 prisoners. General Marion and Colo. Lee had reduced one of the enemy's posts of communication called Fort Watson in which they took 109 prisoners. If Lord Cornwallis does not march to the relief of his Frontier posts in South Carolina more of them will probably fall.

The enemy remained at Petersburgh in Virginia on the 18th. of last month. The Marquis de la Fayette with his detachment lay near them watching their motions. I have the honor etc.[25]

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 3, 1781.

Sir: I am sorry to inform you that one of our Messengers has been taken between this place and Morris Town. Among other dispatches he had that which your Excellency inclosed in yours of the 28th: of May, for the Minister of France. The enemy can gain no material information from my letters, and shall be happy to hear that they will be disappointed in yours.

By letters of the 24th. of May from the Marquis dela Fayette Lord Cornwallis had formed a junction with General Arnold

[25] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

at Petersburg and as a number of Transports with troops had arrived in Hampton Road I take it for granted they were the same which sailed from New York the 13th. of May. With the most perfect respect, etc.[26]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL CALVIN SMITH[27]

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 3, 1781.

Sir: You will see by adverting to the Resolution of Congress of the 24th of Novr. 1778, what provision they have made respecting the Rank of Officers, who were Prisoners of War. In consequence of which and of a subsequent Resolution, you will be at liberty to Certify to the Authority of the State, the time when Lieut Wattles[28] would have been entitled to promotion and the Rank he now would have held in the Regiment, if he never had been made a Prisoner by the Enemy. The appointment will be dated accordingly. I am etc.[26]

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 4, 1781.

Sir: I had last Evening the honor of receiving your favor of the 31st. of May by the Duke de Lauzun, who informs me that he is authorized by your Excellency and the Count de Barras to enter into a free communication with me upon the subject of the Council of War held on board the Duke de Burgoyne and to request my opinion upon the propriety of their determination.[29]

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[26] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

[27] Of the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment. He served to June, 1783.

[28] Lieut. Mason Wattles, of the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment. He had been taken prisoner at Stony Point in June, 1779; exchanged in October, 1780; ranked as a captain from April, 1780; served to June, 1783.

[29] The move of the French squadron to Boston would have been strictly in accordance with the general instructions of the French King.

I must confess to your Excellency that there is weight in the reasons which are offered for the detention of His Majesty's Fleet in the Harbour of Newport in preference to its going round to Boston, but as I cannot think that it will be as safe in all possible cases in the Harbour of Newport, after the greater part of the French Army has been withdrawn, as it would be in the Harbour of Boston, I must adhere to my *opinion* and to the plan which was fixed at Weathersfield as most eligible, all circumstances considered. I would not however set up my single judgment against that of so many Gentlemen of experience, more especially as the matter partly depends upon a knowledge of Marine Affairs of which I candidly confess my ignorance. I would therefore [in order to avoid delay] rest the matter upon the following footing. If your Excellency, the Count De Barras, and the other Gentlemen should upon a further consideration of the subject, aided by any new informations which you may have received, still think it most advisable to adhere to the former resolution of the Council, you may make use of the inclosed letters to the Governors of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, which are left open for your inspection. If on the contrary you should change your opinions the letters may be destroyed, as that which was written by me to the Governor of Rhode Island from Weathersfield will be sufficient for the purpose of calling out 500 Militia for the present and such further numbers as exigencies may require.

At any rate I could wish that the march of the troops might now be hurried as much as possible. The strides which the Enemy are making to the southward demand a collection of our force in this quarter, that we may endeavour to commence our operations. I know of no measure which will be so likely to afford relief to the southern States in so short a time as a serious menace against New York. This your Excellency may

remember was a principal inducement for our undertaking that operation in preference to the other which was spoken of, and I assure you the calls upon me from the southward are so pressing that nothing but seeing our preparations against New York in some degree of forwardness will content them or convince them that they are likely to derive any advantages from the force which they see detained here.

I have forwarded your Excellency's dispatch to the Minister by a Gentleman in the Quarter Masters department. I have the honor etc.[30]

To COMTE DE BARRAS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 4, 1781.

Sir: I have had the honor of receiving your favor of the 31st: of May. His Excellency The Count De Rochambeau transmitted to me the result of the Council of War held on Board the Duke de Burgoyne; and the Duke de Lauzun, who was kind enough to be the bearer of it, having informed me that he was authorized by your Excellency and the Count de Rochambeau to enter into a free communication with me upon the subject of the deliberations of the Council, and to request my opinion upon the propriety of their determination, I take the liberty, still to recommend the measure of removing His Majesty's Fleet to Boston, as a Port more safe in all possible contingencies than Newport can be after the principal part of the French Land Force shall be withdrawn: But however as I would not wish to oppose my single judgment to that of so many Gentlemen of experience, especially as there is a combination of Marine Affairs, of which I confess my intire ignorance. I have expressed my wish to the Count de Rochambeau that the

[30] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

matter may be again considered and have informed him that if with such aids as the Council of War may possibly acquire from later intelligences, they should still adhere to their opinion, that the Fleet may safely remain in Newport under the protection of 400 french troops and 1000 Militia, I shall be satisfied. I have furnished the Count with letters to the Governors of Massachusetts and Rhode Island which he will make use of as circumstances may require.

I shall be happy to receive a confirmation of the agreeable intelligence brought by Capt. Ledyard.[31] I have the honor etc.[32]

*To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

New Windsor, June 4, 1781.

Dear Sir: The present conveyance is sudden and unexpected; I have only time therefore to acknowledge the receipt of your favors of the 29th. Ulto. and to assure you, that I felt a most sensible pleasure, when I heard of your acceptance of the late appointment of Congress to regulate the Finances of this Country. My hand and heart shall be with you, and as far as my assistance will, or can go, command it. We have, I am perswaded, but one object in view: the public good, to effect which, I will aid your endeavours to the extent of my abilities, and with all the powers I am vested.

I shall be happy in a meeting with you and would have wrote you more fully at this time if the bearer was not waiting I could not however refrain from embracing the first oppertunity that offered of expressing the pleasure I felt at hearing, from yourself, that you had entered upon the duties of your office, and to assure you with how much truth and sincerity I am etc.

[31] Lieut. Col. William Ledyard, of the Connecticut Militia. He had just returned from Guadaloupe.

[32] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 4, 1781.

Sir: One thousand Militia in addition to four hundred Troops having been deemed necessary to the security of the Fleet in Harbour of Newport after the departure of the Land Forces, I am to request Your Excellency to give orders for Five hundred from the State of Massachusetts to repair to Rhode Island as soon as they shall be demanded by His Excellency the Count de Rochambeau. The State of Rhode Island is to furnish 500 more. They will be put under the command of Brigadier Genl. de Choissy, who will remain in command at Newport. Should any attempt of the Enemy make an additional number of Men necessary, Monsr. de Choissy will call for them and it is my request that his requisition may be complied with. It is uncertain for what time the Militia will be wanted; you will therefore be pleased to have them regularly releived should the time exceed the term which your law enables you to draw them out for. I have the honor &c.[33]

To CAPTAIN BENJAMIN HICKS[34]

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 4, 1781.

Sir: You will proceed to Elizabeth Town in New Jersey and make enquiry, in a way to avoid suspicion, whether a certain patrick Smith of Albany is or has been lately in that neighbourhood, or if he has lately found means to go from thence to New York. If you find him in the neighbourhood of Elizabeth Town you will apprehend him and immediately secure any papers he may have about him or at his lodgings. Should he be gone into New York you will endeavour to find the time of his return

[33] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[34] Of the First New York Regiment. He served to June, 1783.

and wait for him. Should you apprehend him you will bring him up under a Guard, for which you will apply to Colonel Dayton, or Officer commanding the Jersey line.

If you hear nothing of Smith you will return to this place. I am etc.[35]

To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

New Windsor, June 4, 1781.

My dear Marqs: I have this moment received information that the letters, of which the inclosed are copies, with other dispatches and the Southern Mail, were taken between this and Morristown and carried, it is supposed, into New York. It is unhappy that the communication is so insecure! and that corrispondencies from one part of the Country to another are liable to such accidents!

I have received your letters of the 24th: Ulto. but cannot, as the Gentn. who bears this to Philadelphia is waiting, do more than acknowledge the safe arrival of them except entreating you not to hazard before nor after your junction with General Wayne a General Action unless you have very sure grounds to do it on. *No rational person* will condemn you for *not fighting* with the odds against [you] and while so much is depending on it; but all will censure a rash step if it is not attended with success. adieu I am &c.

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM GREENE

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 4, 1781.

Sir: In my letter of the 24th. of May from Weathersfield I requested your Excellency to furnish 500 Militia upon the requisition of His Excellency the Count de Rochambeau for the

[35] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

security of the Harbour of Newport. I now confirm that request with this addition: That should Brigadier General de Choissy, who will be left in command at Newport, find, from any movements of the Enemy, a further number of Men necessary, and call upon your Excellency for them, you would be pleased to comply with his requisition. I have the honor etc.[36]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, Monday, June 4, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

Accurate Returns of the number of Recruits joined the different state lines and corps of Artillery to the 1st. instant specifying also the number of these returned as unfit for service to be made to the Adjutant General by Thursday next without fail.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 5, 1781.

Dear Sir: In my Letter of the 28th. Ulto. I informed you of the succours you might expect, if necessary. The six Companies of Van Schaicks Regt. have since sailed, Hazens will follow to morrow. I have now to communicate my sentiments in general respecting the disposition, and application of this force.

It is clearly my opinion, that the reinforcements lately ordered to the Northward should be kept together, as much as circumstances will admit, or at least so near as to be speedily assembled upon an emergency. As is it is not certain, or probable they will be continued permanently in that quarter; and as they are designed while there, to strike the Enemy, should they be so presumptuous as to attempt to penetrate into the

[36] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Country. It also appears to me that the force on the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers, ought not to be so widely scattered as formerly, but stationed in as compact a manner as may be, except such Light Parties, as occasion may require to be kept out. By distributing the Troops, with a view, of protecting every inch of ground, the efficient force is dissipated and lost, and the several Posts are so weakened as to invite the Enemy to enterprize. I wish you therefore to concentre your strength as much as possible at the Points you may judge most expedient; to form a plan of defence for the frontier; and to transmit to me the result of your determination. I am etc.[37] [M.L.]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, Tuesday, June 5, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

Colonel Hazen's regiment to embark tomorrow morning at Fishkill landing where transports are provided for them.

The Honorable the Congress have been pleased to pass the following Resolves:

By the United States in Congress Assembled, May 25th, 1781.

The report of the committee on the letter, of the 20 December last, from the Commander in Chief, was taken into consideration, Whereupon,

Resolved, That battalion promotions in the infantry, to the rank of commanding officer inclusive, where such battalion is annexed to any State, shall be in the line of such State:

That in regiments of infantry or legionary corps, not annexed to particular states, promotions to the rank of commanding officer inclusive, be regimental or legionary;

That promotions in the cavalry and artillery, be regimental to the rank of commanding officer inclusive;

[37] In the writing of David Humphreys.

On June 6 Washington wrote a brief order to Lieut. Col. Edward Antill to proceed to Albany and put himself under the orders of Brigadier General Clinton. The above letter to Clinton was forwarded by Antill. The draft of this order is in the *Washington Papers.*

That the promoting of battalion officers to the rank of brigadiers, be confined to the following districts in each of which brigadiers, when necessary, shall be made from the senior officer of that district, without regard to any particular State:

That New Hampshire and Massachusetts, be entitled to four brigadiers; Rhode Island and Connecticut, two brigadiers; New York and New Jersey, including Colonel Hazen's regiment, two brigadiers; Pensylvania, two brigadiers; Delaware and Maryland, two brigadiers; Virginia, three brigadiers; North Carolina, one brigadier; South Carolina and Georgia, one brigadier:

That whenever a brigadier shall be wanting for the troops of either of those districts, he shall be made from the senior battalion officer without regarding the State to which he belongs:

That in the cavalry and artillery, brigadiers shall be made from the eldest regimental officers in those corps respectively:

That major generals shall be made from the eldest brigadiers in the army, whether belonging to the infantry cavalry or artillery:

That all brigadiers hereafter to be made, shall have relative rank respecting each other, agreeable to the date of their last battalion commissions, priority of appointment not withstanding:

That Tench Tilghman, esq. receive the commission of lieutenant colonel in the line of the army and take rank from the 1st of April, 1777:

That Doctor James McHenry receive the commission of major in the army of the United States, to take rank from the 30th of October last:

That officers not annexed to any line, serving in the family of the Commander in Chief, and those serving as Aids-de-camps with other general officers, retain the rank they now hold, and shall be eligible to command upon detachments when the Commander in Chief, or commanding officer of a department, shall think proper:

That all officers who are hostages, and are liable to be called for by the enemy, and are not continued in the line of any State, shall be entitled to their full pay until redeemed, and to half pay for life afterward, in the same manner as officers of equal rank reduced by the late arrangement: and that it be recommended to the respective states, in the line of which they were at the time of their becoming hostages, to make good to them their depreciation, and also to pay them such sums as are or may become due to them, and charge the same to the United States:

That lieutenant colonels commandants, of battalions be not considered in different grades from other lieutenant colonels of the line.

The Commander in Chief thinks proper to direct that all Vacancies should be filled to the present time agreeably to the rules of Promotion formerly established. From this period it is expected the foregoing Regulations respecting Promotion will be strictly adhered to throughout the Line of the army.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor,
Wednesday, June 6, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

The Quarter master General is immediately to take measures for drawing together as many Tents and other Camp equipage as will be sufficient to encamp the whole army. He will report to the Commander in Chief when he is ready to make a General delivery that orders may be given accordingly.

The Arrangement of the Corps of Engineers and of Sappers and Miners not having been completed when the regulations for the new Formation of the army were published in General orders on the first of November last is the reason why those corps were not included at that time or mentioned in the rules of promotion published yesterday. But the Honorable the Congress having by their Resolve of the 14th of November last declared that the above mentioned Corps are to be put on an equal establishment with those of other lines, the officers belonging to them are to be considered on an equal footing in their respective ranks with those of Artillery Infantry and Cavalry and are to be respected accordingly.

The Regimental Clothiers of the New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut lines are called upon

to deliver at the Adjutant General's office by the 15th. instant, accurate returns of the Cloathing drawn and delivered by them to their respective regiments for the present year. The regimental Clothiers of the New York and New Jersey lines and Hazen's regiment will make similar returns within the present month.

Brigadier General Du Portails guard to be immediately augmented to a Serjeant, Corporal and twelve men.

The Adjutant General will tomorrow morning superintend the exercising such of the troops of the Massachusetts line as can be drawn out for that purpose. He requests they may be on the Grand Parade at West Point by seven o'clock; the recruits formed into squads greater or smaller agreeable to the proficiency they have made in discipline.

To COLONEL ELISHA SHELDON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 6, 1781.

Sir: In answer to your Letter of the 2nd Inst. I can only repeat the instruction I gave in mine of the 31st Ulto. for you to draw on your *own Return* from the Public Stores such Articles as were indispensably necessary to equip your Corps, previous to its marching. I was in hopes that the Assembly of Connecticut, if they gave Orders for the purchase of the Horses, would also make provision for procuring the Equipage agreeably to the Recommendation of Congress.

As to the Article of leather for Saddles &c. I scarcely know what can be done about it. I am informed there are no hides on hand, and contracts to a considerable amount uncomplied with, and that the prospect of a supply of Shoes is not very promising, owing to the great diminution of the number of public Hides, in consequence of our obtaining the salted Beef

by a specific Tax, without the Hides. I should imagine the State could from that resource, replace any leather in a little time that Mr Star[38] may furnish. If I should undertake to break in upon the general Arrangements of the Board of War and Clothier General, by particular Orders, I fear the inevitable consequence will be, that the whole Army before the close of the Campaign, would be reduced to the necessity of going *barefoot:* but if there is any public leather, that can be spared without involving this consequence, I shall be ever willing to have it appropriated to the uses you propose; Recommending however the strictest Oeconomy, and that all the Portmanteaus, and other articles of leather formerly drawn should be regularly accounted for.

Genl. Knox will give an Order for the Pistols which will be immediately wanted and for more when necessary. Swords I apprehend are not in the public Stores. It is exceedingly to be regretted that the Boots and leather Breeches are of so bad a quality, as to be useless; but there are some drilling Breeches, which possibly may be a good substitute for the latter. I am &c.

P. S. There are some blue Strouds in store at Newburgh which might, by your Regimental Taylors be made into Stable Jackets for those of your Corps, who cannot be otherwise supplied.[39]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 6, 1781.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's favors of the 28th May, with their several inclosures. I have written to the Board of War on the subject of the removal of the Convention troops, and have given it as my opinion, with my reasons,

[38] George Starr, Commissary of Hides of the Continental Army.
[39] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

that they had, best for the present, be halted in Pennsylvania. An exchange of those troops, on proper terms, would certainly be a desirable thing, but under present circumstances, I do not think it would be advisable to give the enemy any reinforcement of privates. Every Man they get adds immediately to their force, many of those whom we obtain in exchange are out of their term of service; and consequently lost to us.

It is as much my wish as it can be your Excellency's that General Gates's affair should be brought to a decision. You must be convinced that nothing has been left undone by me to effect that purpose. General Gates informs me, that he cannot think of serving untill the matter shall have been properly investigated, and that he shall retire in the mean time to Virginia. I see no probability of any thing further being done untill there shall be some recess in southern operations.

I hope the Rules of promotion, which Congress have been pleased to establish, will be generally satisfactory. Individuals may be affected by the change of mode, but it will be impossible to devise a plan which will not interfere in some degree with particular interests.[40]

I send your Excellency by this Conveyance duplicate of my letters of the 30th: May. The original was taken in the last Weeks Mail. The Communication by the post from hence to Philada. has become so dangerous, that I cannot, in future, trust any dispatches of importance by him, and I beg you will observe the same Rule. The parties which are sent out know the exact time at which he may be expected and cannot fail of

[40]At this point in the draft the following is crossed off: "There can be no doubt but Count de Grasse has arrived at Martinicus, as the account is brought to the Eastward and is announced in the New York paper I flatter myself that there has been a meeting between the fleets which has been unfavorable to the British. Your Excellency will judge of this by comparing a paragraph of the inclosed paper with an account brought by Capt. Ledyard to New London, of which I transmit a Copy."

securing him. They have not the same opportunity of intercepting Expresses, as their times of riding are uncertain. I have the honor etc.[41]

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 6, 1781.

Gentn: I was yesterday honored with your favor of the 25th. ulto. Your first and second reasons for removing the Convention troops from their present places of confinement are unobjectionable; but I think they will be equally safe in Pennsylvania, as they would be in Massachusetts, and, all circumstances considered, I am of opinion that they had best be halted for the present in that State. The Board having been good enough to take my advice upon the subject I will give my reasons for preferring their remaining in Pennsylvania to going further Northward. The first is, the accumulation of expence, trouble and danger of escape by lengthening the march. The second the impossibility of supplying them with Bread in N. England by land transportation, and the inconveniences and expence of doing it by water, even should we procure passports from the British Commander in Chief. The third and a very essential one is, that in our expected operation in this quarter, all the Beef which the Eastern States will be able to procure will be necessary for the subsistence of the French and American Armies, and therefore no additional consumption, if it can possibly be avoided, ought to be imposed upon the Magazines which we are endeavouring to establish. Pennsylvania has furnished a very inconsiderable part of the Meat or Flour required of her by the Resolve of the 4th. November last and

[41] In the writing of Tench Tilghman.

may upon that account with more propriety be called upon to support the Prisoners, but independent of that, part of her supplies, taking the general plan of Campaign into contemplation, may with less inconvenience be applied to the purpose I have mentioned than those more northerly or southerly. I have the honor etc.[42]

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 7, 1781.

Sir: I do myself the honor to inclose your Excellency a Martinico Gazette of the 3d. of May which announces the arrival of the Count de Grasse and gives an imperfect account of the Action between the Fleets. This was sent to me by the Minister with a desire that it might be forwarded to you. But by intelligence as late as the 8th. of May it appears that the Count, unable to overtake Hood, had returned to Martinico, and that an attempt was immediately to be made upon St. Lucia at which there was a garrison of 1200 British Troops.

Your Excellency will observe a very extraordinary paragraph in the inclosed paper. It is asserted that 5 Ships of the Line, having 42 transports under their Convoy, parted from the main Body of the Fleet and were destined for Rhode Island. Should you have received similar official intelligence, or should you and Mr. de Barras think that such a circumstance is probable, in that case, His Majesty's squadron ought not in my opinion at this moment to leave Rhode Island, but await the reinforcement there. Possibly the despatches for your Excellency and Count de Barras which I forward by this opportunity may throw more light upon the matter and enable you to

[42] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

judge with precision upon the measure which ought to be pursued.[43]

Accounts from Virginia are exceedingly alarming. The enemy, having concentred their force are marching thro' the State almost without controul, as the Body of Men under the command of the Marquis de la Fayette was too small to give effectual opposition. This obliges me again to entreat your Excellency to move this way as soon as circumstances will possibly admit. The reasons which were urged in my last now operate more powerfully in favor of the movement than they did before. I have the honor etc.[44]

To PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 7, 1781.

Sir: By a Resolution of Congress of the 31st. of May, 4 Battalions of Infantry, one Company of Artillery consisting of 32 Matrosses and a Corps of Horse consisting of sixty four Dragoons are required of the State of Pennsylvania to serve for three Months from the time of their respectively rendezvousing at the Place or Places directed by me. You[r Excellency] has, no Doubt, been made acquainted that the foregoing Requisition is founded on the alarming Progress which the Enemy are making in Virginia. You will [be pleased] therefore [to] give Orders to the Officers commanding the respective Corps to march by Detachment as they are raised and equipped to whatever Place may be the Head Quarters of the American Army in Virginia or in Maryland (should the Enemy have advanced into

[43]Washington, after having considered the deliberations of the French naval council of war held on the *Duc de Burgogne* on May 31, stated to Barras on June 4, that he again recommended Boston as a safer port for the French squadron than Newport, R. I., and desired the matter might be reconsidered. (See Washington's letter to Barras, June 4, 1781.) A council of war was held on board the *Neptune* on June 8, which adhered to the former determination to remain at Newport.

[44]The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

that State) and take their further Commands from the General or other commanding Officer. I need but refer You[r Excellency] to the Circular Letter of the President of Congress of the 1st. instant for the Reasons which ought to influence the Exertions [of your State] most particularly at this Moment. I have the Honor etc.[45] [H.S.P.]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 7, 1781.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's favors of the 2nd and 3d Inst. I had upon the former complaints exhibited against Colonel Brodhead, and Mr. Duncan the Dep. Qr. Mastr. Genl. at Fort Pitt, directed the proper measures to be taken for calling them to an account, and as the Complainants in the present instance, are principally the same as in the first, they will have an opportunity of bringing and supporting their charges before the Courts which have been already ordered.

I have written to the Governors of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware, and have desired them to send the Militia required by the Resolution of the 31st May to Virginia or Maryland as circumstances may require. I must trouble your Excellency to forward the enclosed to the Executives of those States.

Your Excellency's Circular Letter of the 1st Inst.[46] cannot, I think, but have a happy effect, unless the States are determined, for want of proper energy, at the moment when they ought most to exert themselves, to lose those advantages which

[45] In the writing of Richard Varick. The words in brackets in the draft are in the writing of Washington.

The same letter was sent to President Caesar Rodney, of Delaware, calling for 1 battalion and 32 dragoons, and to Gov. Thomas Sim Lee, of Maryland, calling for 2 battalions and 64 dragoons. These drafts are in the *Washington Papers*.

[46] See *Journals of the Continental Congress*, June 1, 1781, for the text of this circular.

they have it in their power to secure at the proposed Negociation. A little success on our part will over ballance any exorbitant terms or claims, which the partizans of Great Britain may attempt to impose or demand.

The intelligence from the West Indies which Your Excellency has been pleased to communicate is both interesting and agreeable. Could our generous Allies but once obtain a compleat naval superiority, the happiest consequences would undoubtedly ensue. I have the honor etc.

P. S. Inclosed is a Return of all the Recruits who have joined this Army from the 1st. of January to the 1st. of June amounting to 2574. A few have joined the York Regiments of Infantry and perhaps about 60 the Jersey. Your Excellency will be pleased for the information of Congress to call upon the Board of War for the Monthly return of May in which the above are included. And by deducting from that Return the detachment under the Command of the Marquis de la Fayette. The two Regiments of New York and Hazens Regiment now upon the Northern Frontier, you will be able to form a judgment of my efficient strength at this place and in Jersey.[47]

To DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER AND DANIEL CARROLL[48]

New Windsor, June 7, 1781.

Gentlemen: I was this day honored with your favor of the 3d. instant. I very sensibly feel not only for the danger to which the States immediately invaded are exposed, but for the general bad consequences which may ensue, if the enemy are permitted, at this time, to gain and hold possession of a part

[47] In the writing of David Humphreys; the P. S. is in that of Tilghman.
[48] Maryland Delegates to the Continental Congress.

of our Country, and I have been endeavouring to concert such plans with our Allies, as I hope will eventually frustrate the projects which the enemy seem to have in view. Nothing but an adherence to regular plans and Systems can ultimately be attended with salutary effects, and I flatter myself the issue of those now in contemplation will justify the observation.

I have desired the Executives of the States of Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland to send the Corps of Infantry, Artillery and Cavalry, requested by the Resolution of the 31st. of May, to the Head Quarters of the Army in Virginia or in Maryland (should the enemy have advanced into that State) as fast as they are raised and equipped. I cannot promise any further assistance as to Arms and Accoutrements, having already forwarded to the southward all that could possibly be spared of those on hand.

The danger to which letters are exposed upon the communication between this and Philadelphia, renders it unadvisable to enter into details upon paper, but I beg you to be assured, that the slender means, with which I am yet furnished, shall be directed, to the best of my Abilities, to the general good. To those who are experiencing the calamities of War, all relief only in prospect seems very far off, but I trust the enemy will in the end repent the hasty advance which they are now making. I have the honor etc.[49] [MD. H. S.]

To THEODORICK BLAND[50]

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 7, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have received your favor of the 1st. Inst. with the inclosure, this Morning, by the Express, who brought the same

[49] In the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[50] At this time a Delegate to the Continental Congress for Virginia.

Act of Congress of the 31st of May, under Cover from his Excellency the President.

Sensible of the pressing exigencies of the Southern States for succours, I have not hesitated a moment to order, the whole of the seven Battalions of Infantry, together with the Corps of Horse and Artillery which are to be raised in the States of Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland, to their Aid: I have written to the Governors of those States to have these troops forwarded by detachment to the Head Quarters of our Army in Virginia, and put under the Orders of the General Officer Commanding there as soon as may be. And I cannot doubt of the exertions of the States on so great and interesting an occasion.

I am only unhappy that it is not in our power to give more immediate and powerful succour at this moment; and beg you to rest assured, that I will still attempt to use the means intrusted to me, in the best manner I am able, to expel the Enemy, from every part of the United States. With sentiments of the highest regard etc.[51]

To COLONEL ELISHA SHELDON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 7, 1781.

Sir: Instantly upon the receipt of this Letter, you will put the whole of your Corps in motion to join the Army; leaving only such Officers and dismounted Dragoons, as are absolutely necessary to collect and bring on the Horses and Equipage which may be provided by the State.

When you have commenced your march (which I should advise to be by the *Route* of Litchfield towards Peekskill) you will be pleased to send forward and inform me of it; that, if

[51] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

any alteration of circumstances, should require a change in the movement or destination, the necessary Orders may be given. I am etc.[52]

*To JOHN MATHEWS

New Windsor, June 7, 1781.

Dear Sir: I must begin this letter with an apology for having delayed the acknowledgment of your favors of the 16th of Apl. and 2d. of May till this time. and as the best excuses upon these occasions is to confess the truth, honestly, I beg leave to add that, the above letters did not reach my hands till a day or two before my departure for Weathersfield; that I did not return from that place till the 26th., and that to make the necessary arrangements consequent of the plan there agreed on have employed my time pretty much since.

The freedom of your communications is highly pleasing to me. the portrait you have drawn of our Affairs is strictly agreeable to the life, and you do me but justice in supposing that my Mind is fortified against, or rather prepared for, the most distressing Accts. that can be given of them; it would not be the part of friendship therefore to conceal any circumstance from an unwillingness to give pain, especially as the knowledge of them to a man determined not to sink under the weight of perplexities may be of the utmost importance. But we must not despair; the game is yet in our own hands; to play it well is all we have to do, and I trust the experience of error will enable us to act better in future. A cloud may yet pass over us, individuals may be ruined; and the Country at large, or particular States, undergo temporary distress; but certain I am, that it is in our power to bring the War to a happy conclusion.

My public letters to Congress, and in a more especial manner, my private communications to Governor Rutledge, will

[52] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

bring you fully acquainted with the situation of things in this quarter, and the prospects before us; how far we shall be able to extricate ourselves from the first and realize the latter, time only can shew. I have great expectations from the appointment of Mr. Morris, but they are not unreasonable ones; for I do not suppose that by Art magick, he can do more than recover us, by degrees, from the labyrinth into which our finance is plunged.

I am very sorry for the disagreeable situation of our suffering Soldiery at Charles Town, and wish they could be relieved without adding to the pressure under which we at present groan. How far it is in General Greene's power to liberate, by exchange, our Prisoners in that quarter I know not; but all the authority I can give to do this he has, reserving the Troops of Convention from his disposal. With these I have plague enough; in a late interview between the two Commissaries of Prisoners, Mr. Loring refused to exchange General Burgoyne unless the prisoners taken at the Cedars are allowed for, which is opposed by a resolve of Congress. and has actually refused to pay a debt of Privates which three Months ago he promised to do.

Mrs. Washington who has been very unwell for some time past joins me in respectful complimts. to Mrs. Matthews. I have the honor etc.

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 7, 1781.

Dear Sir: At the same time I again inform you of the almost infinite importance it is, to have the Boats in immediate readiness for use, I must request and intreat, that no exertions on your part may be wanting to put them instantly in that state;

if there is any thing in my power which will tend to expedite this so necessary business, I wish to be informed, that measures may be taken accordingly.

I wish also you will acquaint me, with the means, that have been made use of, to transport the Arms and accoutrements to the Southward, whether they have all been forwarded as yet, from this place, under what circumstances, under whose care, and with what prospect of their being expeditiously transported and safely delivered. It is a matter of the greatest consequence to the Southern States, which are in danger of being over run and ruined for the want of Arms. I am etc.[53]

* To JOSEPH JONES

New Windsor, June 7, 1781.

Dear Sir: Govr. Rutlidge did me the favr to present me with your letter of the 31st. Ulto, and on my return from Weathersfield I met your other favor of the 16th. What with few aids at present, and a multiy. of business, my time has been so constantly occupied, that It has not been in my power to acknowledge the receipt of the above letters before, and now I must be hasty and indigested in my answers.

Hesitate not a moment to believe, that I am prompted by every motive which public duty, inclination, and private interest can dictate to afford every assistance in my power to the distressed States to the Southward. Virginia in particular; but to require Brick without straw was the complaint of old time. My Letter to Congress of this date, gives you the number of Men which have joined the Army since the first of Jany, under the requisitions of October. And the General return, sent to the Board of War by Govr. Rutlidge, for the Month of May; in

[53] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

which all those recruits are included; all the Men composing the detachment of the Marquis la Fayette; the Garrison's at Wyoming, Albany, &ca. are also included in the total of that return; judge you therefore of my ability to afford, at this moment, effectual aid, from the remainder, to the Southward, especially when there are appearances of something serious upon the Northern Frontier of this State, from Canada.

It is much the desire of the Govr. of Virginia, as appears by his Letter of the 28th. Ulto, that I should, in person, repair to that State; it is also the expressed wish of many of my friends, and no body I perswade myself can doubt my inclination to be immediately employed in the defence of that Country, where all my property and Connexion's are; but there are powerful objections to my leaving this Army, at this time, but neither time, nor prudence, will allow me to go into a detail of them on paper; one only I will name, which is, that no other person has power to command the French Troops who are now about to form a junction with this Army. let it suffice for me to add, that I am acting on the great scale. that temporary evils must be endured where there is no remedy at hand; that I am not without hopes the table may be turned; but these being contingent, I can promise no more than my utmost exertions; and that I am etc.

*To ARTHUR LEE

Hd. Qrs., New Windsor, June 7, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have had the honor to receive the letter wch. you did me the favor to write on the 19th. Ulto, and thank you for the extract taken from the letter of Mr Lee[54] of Feby. 20th. The information contained in it is important, and went to

[54] William Lee.

some matters which were new to me. I suspt. with you, that Mr. Lee is rather too sanguine in his expectation of a Genl Peace, within the year; but he accompanys it with a recommendn. to vigs. exerts. the most likely means to effect it, but which I fear will not have its due weight in the Minds of the People especially if the idea of Peace once takes hold of them. I have the honr. etc.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, Thursday, June 7, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

Troy Lee, a soldier in the 5th. Massachusett's regiment, tried 5th. June 1781 by a General court martial whereof Lieutenant Colonel Badlam was President for "repeated Desertion, changing his name and inlisting into the Hampshire line," was found Guilty and sentenced to suffer Death.

The Commander in Chief approves the sentence.

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 8, 1781.

Sir: I am exceedingly obliged to Your Excellency for your interesting Communication of the 1st. instant. The Martinico Paper has been forwarded to the Count de Rochambeau.

As You promise me the Pleasure of your Company the first Leizure Moment You can find, I shall defer entering upon a Detail of public Affairs, until I shall have the Happiness of a personal Conversation. Indeed the Accidents which have lately befallen several of our Messengers between this Place and Philadelphia makes one extremely cautious of trusting any Thing of Importance to paper.

I presage the happiest Consequences from the Appointment of a Gentleman of Mr. Morris's Character and Abilities to the Superintendance of our Finance. I wait impatiently for his making me the Visit which he proposes, as many very essential Matters in the Operations of the Campaign will [depend] upon the Assistance which he will be able to afford us. I beg you to be assured that I am &c.[55]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, Friday, June 8, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

On the entreaty of his Friends and the intercessions of a number of gentlemen the Commander in Chief is pleased to pardon William King of the first New York regiment now under sentence of Death for Desertion.

Jonathan Trumbull, Esqr., Junior, is appointed Secretary to the Commander in Chief and to be respected accordingly.

To FRANCISCO RENDON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 8, 1781.

Sir: I have the Honor to receive your Favor of the 29th Uto. and have to assure you that I shall be very happy in a Confirmation of the very agreeable account you mention of the Success likely to attend the Arms of His Catholic Majesty under the command of his General Don Galvez[56] at Pensacola.

Having nothing of particular Importance to communicate, I have the Honor etc.[57]

[55] In the writing of Richard Varick. From a photostat of the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang. Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6. The word in brackets is supplied from the draft, which is in the writing of Tilghman.

[56] Gov. Bernardo de Galvez, of Louisiana.

[57] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 8, 1781.

Dear Sir: I was duly favored with your Letter of the 15th of May, and have just now had the pleasure to receive that of the 29th. I entreat you not to relinquish or relax your sollicitations and importunities until the great objects of Your Mission are fully accomplished. As the plan of the Campaign is now settled upon the presumption of the success of your Applications, a failure in the smallest degree on the part of the States will involve us in the deepest distress, and probably frustrate every advantage we might otherwise obtain. I only wish the Legislatures may be impressed with these Ideas, and stimulated to exertions proportioned to the occasion.

The salted provisions at Springfield were included in those, which were designed to be immediately transported to the Army, that is, to the nearest point of embarkation on the North River. I wish that the transportation of these, as well as the supplies of Rum and Cloathing may be expedited as much as possible. Not a drop of Rum has yet come on, and the Physicians report that the Artificers (who labour exceedingly hard) are falling sick for want of it, besides you must be sensible, that it is extremely necessary for other purposes.

As to summer Cloathing, I request you to make known to the States, that almost every article in the public Store, which was of any value, has been sent on to the Southern Army, and that there is no other possible Alternative, but for the Troops to be provided with it, by their own States, or become literally naked.

I am persuaded you will not lose sight of the supply of Beef Cattle, called for from the Eastern States, nor give a Moment's quiet to them, untill ample provision is made for obtaining

the whole of it. The Means of transportation are equally important.

A quantity of Cloathing (about 2000 Suits) having arrived at Boston from Spain, you will be pleased to give Orders, to the Dep. Quartr. Genl. to have it forwarded *immediately* to the Army the Packages must not be broken. In case teams cannot be procured to transport the whole, at least 1000 Suits compleat with the same number of Hats and a proportion of Serjeants' Coats must be sent on; the Coats, Waistcoats, and Breeches should be divided by their size, into three distinct parcels, viz, the largest, Midling, and smallest, and marked accordingly. I request you to pay particular attention to it, and to make application to the State for the Means of conveyance (should the Quarter Master be unable to provide Teams) but I should suppose the Ox Teams hired for the Campaign might be made use of for the purpose. [A conductor shd. come with the Cloathing to prevent waste and delay in the transportation.]

You may be assured, that you will not be forgotten in the Arrangements for the Campaign, and that I am &c.[58]

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 8, 1781.

Sir: Mr Kirkland has delivered me your Letter of Yesterday with one from B Genl Patterson, respecting King under sentence of Death. In Consequence of the Solicitations in his Favr. I have consented that he shall be pardoned for his Offence, and not subjected to the Execution of his Sentence; his release from Service for obvious Reasons is not admissible.

[58] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The sentence in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

You will be pleased to send him by the first good Opportunity to his Regiment in Albany.

John Henesey a Soldier of the 2d N York Regiment, you will be pleased to send under a proper Guard to Albany, to the Direction of Brigr Genl Clinton, by him to be brot to Execution, or pardoned, as the Genl on Consideration of Circumstances, shall think proper. Inclosed is the Proceedings of the Court Martial of the 5th. June instant; the Sentence against Troy Lee being approved. I am etc.[59]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 8, 1781.

Dear Sir: I enclose to you the application of the State of New Jersey for Ammunition, also General Cornell's Letter informing what quantity may be expected from the Eastward, and request your opinion of the expediency of granting any to that State, and in that case how much?

I wish also to be advised, what has been done respecting Plank for the Platforms, and whether it will be necessary to have arrangements made with the Quarter Master Genl for procuring that Article. With great esteem etc.

P. S. Be pleased to return the perusal.[60]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL GEORGE ROGERS CLARK

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 8, 1781.

Sir: I this day received your favors of the 20th. and 21st. of May by Capt. Randolph and am sorry to find that your intended expedition against Detroit stands upon so precarious a

[59] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.
[60] In the writing of David Humphreys.

footing. When Govr. Jefferson first proposed the plan to me he only asked for the Artillery and Stores and an Artillery Officer, but as I wished to give every support in my power to the undertaking which I deemed of great public import, I ordered Colo. Brodhead to detach Captain Craig with his whole Company of Artillery and as many Men from the 8th. Penna. and 9th. Virginia Regts. as he could safely spare. That command I did not imagine could amount to more than a Captain's or Major's at most. Your present request of augmenting the number of Continental Troops to the whole of the 9th: Regiment and Heath's[61] independent Company is what I cannot think myself at liberty to comply with, as, as it would be leaving the post of Pittsburgh in too defenceless a state to resist any attempt of an open enemy, to say nothing of the disaffected in the Vicinity, who, from intelligence which comes from the same Quarter as that which I communicated to you, are numerous and ready to join the enemy whenever an opportunity offers.

You have not advised me of the number of Militia on which you can depend if the expedition goes forward, neither can Captn. Randolph give me any certain information on the subject. This, were there no other reason, would make me very unwilling to give an order for the number of Continental troops now requested, as I could not answer it to myself nor to my Country should the expedition fail and it should hereafter be found that it was owing to its having been undertaken with fewer Men than such an object required. I feel not only for the public disappointment, but for your own, as I doubt not but you had the Affair much at heart; and that you would have executed it with your usual ability and address had you been able to have found the means. I am &c.[62]

[61] Capt. Henry Heth (Heath).
[62] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To COLONEL WILLIAM SHEPARD

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 8, 1781.

Sir: Since I saw you at Weathersfield I have recd. yours without date. I met so many people on the road as I returned to this place who had been discharged under one pretence or other that I immediately issued orders to discharge no more except there were visible marks of imbecility, or their extreme youth should render them of no kind of service. If you can yet apprehend any of those who have imposed upon the Mustering Officer here by pretending to complaints which they have not, you will be pleased to secure them and send them back. It will undoubtedly disgust those Classes by whom such persons have been furnished at great Bounties, to see them set at liberty; but where the Men are clearly unfit for the service they can have no ground of complaint. I am &c.[63]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL JEAN BAPTISTE TERNANT

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 8, 1781.

Sir: I have been favored with your Letter of the 30th of May, and sincerely felicitate you on the prospect of your being speedily exchanged. Your desire of entering into activity of service immediately upon your release from captivity, is truly laudable, and like your former conduct merits approbation.

From the opinion I entertain of your abilities and zeal for the cause of America, I am persuaded essential aid might be desired from your service in either of the different employments which have been suggested; but I know that Colonel Armand is in full expectation that you would be arranged to his Legion, as the Board of War had made such a Report to

[63] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Congress, which was referred to me and received my approbation in January last. I am sensible, he would be greatly disappointed, should you, when exchanged, go into any other department; and indeed it appears to me, that while Col Armand is abroad, attempting to procure Cloathing and Equipage for his *Corps,* it will be highly necessary for a Gentleman of your Rank, Ability, and attention, to superintend and keep together the remains of it. I should therefore advise, that upon your liberation from captivity, and appointment to this command, you would proceed and take charge of it accordingly. If at the same time (as Virginia is now the theatre of War) you can be more active or useful in the inspection or any other line; you have my entire consent, and wish for your success and glory. I am &c.[64]

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 8, 1781.

Gentlemen: I am honored with yours of the 1st. instant inclosing Colo. Brodheads representation of the State of Affairs to the Westward, which I make no doubt are in much the same situation as those in every other quarter.

If the requisitions for Men and supplies are not in any tolerable degree complied with by the States it is impossible for me to furnish Garrisons for the Frontier posts and support them. I have long foreseen the danger to which the Western Frontier would be exposed and have made proper representations to Congress and the State of Pennsylvania. The president and Council assert that Colo. Brodheads complaints in respect to Provision, Flour especially, are not well founded. Why the 8th. Pennsylvania Regiment should have been neglected while the others have been so amply furnished with Cloathing I

[64] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

cannot say, but I can, under our present circumstances, only recommend it to the State to endeavour to make a provision for them, as the Continental Magazine, after what has gone to the southward, is exhausted of every Article fit for the Season.

As it seemed the public wish that the Expedition of Colo. Clarke against Detroit should be supported, I gave orders to Colo. Brodhead to deliver him a certain quantity of Artillery and stores and to detach Capt. Craig with his Company of Artillery, as there were neither Officers or Men of the Virginia Militia acquainted with that kind of service. I recommended also a small detachment of Continental Troops from the 8th. Penna. and 9th. Virginia Regiments, but it was at the discretion of the Commandant and in case they could be safely spared. I mentioned that I did not imagine the command could exceed that of a Major and perhaps not of a Captain. If, therefore, Colo. Brodhead saw that the post could not be defended if such a detachment of Infantry was made, he was justifiable by the spirit of my order in not sending it.

If Colo. Clarke should be able to prosecute his plan I am of opinion that he will draw the whole attention of the enemy to the support of Detroit, and upon that presumption I thought the Artillery and Stores might be spared. If he should not, matters remain as they were.

Upon the whole, Gentlemen, you must be convinced from your very intimate knowledge of our military Affairs that it is out of my power to send any reinforcement to the Westward. If the States would fill their continental Battalions we should be able to oppose a regular and permanent force to the enemy in every quarter. If they will not, they must certainly take measures to defend themselves by their Militia however expensive and ruinous the System. I have the honor etc.[65]

[65] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

*To GOVERNOR THOMAS JEFFERSON

Head Qrs., New Windsor, June 8, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have had the honor of receiving your Excellency's favors of the 9th. and 28th. of May. The progress which the enemy are making in Virginia is very alarming not only to the State immediately invaded but to all the rest, as I strongly suspect, from the most recent European intelligences, that they are endeavouring to make as large seeming conquests as possible that they may urge the plea of uti possidetis in the proposed mediation. Your Excellency will be able to judge of the probability of this conjecture from the Circular letter of the President of Congress of the 1st. Inst.

Were it prudent to commit a detail of our plans and expectations to paper I could convince Your Excellency by a variety of reasons that my presence is essential to the operations which have lately been concerted between the French Commanders and myself and which are to open in this quarter provided the British keep possession of New York. There have lately been rumours of an evacuation of that place, but I do not place confidence in them.

Should I be supported by the Neighbouring States in the manner which I expect, the enemy will, I hope, be reduced to the necessity of recalling part of their force from the Southward to support New York or they will run the most eminent risque of being expelled with a great loss of Stores from that Post which is to them invaluable, while they think of prosecuting the War in America, and should we, by a lucky coincidence of Circumstances, gain a Naval superiority their ruin would be inevitable. The prospect of giving relief to the Southern States by an operation in this quarter, was the principal inducement for undertaking it. Indeed we found upon a full

consideration of our Affairs in every point of view, that, without the command of the Water it would be next to impossible for us to transport the Artillery, Baggage, and Stores of the Army to so great a distance and besides, that we should loose at least one third of our force by desertion, Sickness, and the heats of the approaching Season even if it could be done.

Your Excellency may probably ask whether we are to remain here for the above reasons should the enemy evacuate New York and transfer the whole War to the Southward? To that I answer[66] that we must, in such case, follow them at every expence, and under every difficulty and loss; but that while we remain inferior at Sea, and there is a probability of giving relief by diversion (and that perhaps sooner than by sending reinforcements immediately to the point in distress) good policy dictates the trial of the former.

Give me leave before I take leave of your Excellency in your public capacity to Express the obligations I am under for the readiness and Zeal with which you have always forwarded and supported every measure which I have had occasion to recommend thro' you, and to assure you that I shall esteem myself honored by a continuation of your friendship and corrispondence shou'd your Country permit you to remain in the private walk of life. I have the honor etc. [H.S.P.]

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 9, 1781.

Dr. Sr: I am honored with your Excellency's favor of the 1st Inst. Upon examining the state of Ammunition, with reference to the proposed Operations, it is found impossible to

[66] At this point the draft, which is in the writing of Tilghman, has the following inserted by Washington: "without hesitation."

furnish more than 15000 Musket Cartridges for the use of the State of New Jersey; especially at a time, when we are obliged to sollicit a loan of Powder from the Eastern States, and when the supply of lead in possession of the Public is very incompetent to our wants.

It is unnecessary to mention to your Excellency, that the strictest œconomy should be enforced, in the distribution and expenditure of so essential an Article. With great respect etc.

P. S. An Order for the Cartridges is inclosed.[67]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ANTHONY WAYNE

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 9, 1781.

Dear Sir: It gave me great Pleasure to learn by yours of the 26th. ulto. that you had marched from York Town, tho' I was somewhat disappointed as to your Numbers,[68] as I had been made to expect they would be considerably larger. Sudden and exemplary Punishments were certainly necessary upon the new Appearance of that daring and mutinous Spirit which convulsed the Line last Winter,[69] and nothing will make me

[67] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

[68] Wayne marched with a little over 700 fit for duty out of a force of over 900.

[69] William Smith Livingston, formerly a lieutenant colonel in Samuel Blatchley Webb's Additional Continental regiment, wrote to Webb (May 28, 1781):

"There has been a Mutiny in the Pennsylvania Line at York Town previous to their Marching. Wayne like a good officer, quell'd it soon as Twelve of the Fellows steped out and perswaded the Line to refuse to March in Consequence of the Promises made them to them not being complied with. Wayne told them of the Disgrace they brought on the American Arms while in Jersey in general, and themselves in particular. That the feelings of the Officers on that Occasion were so wounded that they had determined never to experience the like and that he beg'd they would now fire either on him and them, or on those Villains in front. He then called to such a Platoon. They presented at the Word, fired and killed six of the Villains. One of the others badly wounded he ordered to be Bayonetted. The Soldier on whom he called to do it, recovered his Piece, and said he could not for he was his Comrade. Wayne then drew his Pistol and told him he would kill him. The fellow then advanced and bayonetted him. Wayne then marched the Line by Divisions round the Dead and the rest of the fellows are ordered to be hang'd. The Line marched the next Day Southward; Mute as Fish." (See *Correspondence of Samuel B. Webb* (N. Y.: 1893), vol. 2, p. 341.)

happier than to hear that good Order and Discipline have since prevailed.

I cannot finally accept the Resignations of the Gentlemen whose Commissions You forwarded, before the Vouchers from their Regimental Paymasters and from the Paymaster General and Auditor of the Army are lodged with me, to shew that they are not indebted to the Public.

I earnestly wait to hear of your safe Junction with the Marquis de la Fayette. I am etc.[70]

To REVEREND JOHN WHEELOCK [71]

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 9, 1781.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 25th. of May, and have paid due attention to the business recommended therein.[72]

Pleased with the specimen you have given in Mr Vincent,[73] of the improvement and cultivation which are derived from an education in your Seminary of Literature, I cannot but hope the Institution will become more flourishing and extensively useful. With due respect etc.[74]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JACOB BAYLEY

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 9, 1781.

Sir: I have recd. your favors of the 14th. 24th. and 27th. of May by Mr. Vincent, to whom I have delivered the pay of the St. Francois Indians agreeable to the Rolls which were sent by him. It was not in my power to consider him as a Lieutenant. Indeed the number of Officers which had been already

[70] In the writing of Richard Varick.
[71] President of Dartmouth College.
[72] See Washington's letter to Brig. Gen. Jacob Bayley, June 9, 1781, *post*.
[73] Lewis Vincent, a Canadian Indian of the Lowtso Tribe.
[74] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

appointed were more than sufficient for so few Men. If you will make me a return by the first opportunity of the number of Indian Women and Children the Cloathier at Springfield or Boston shall have orders to furnish them with a few Articles proper for them.

You ought to be very careful of those persons who come from the enemy under the appearance of deserters, it is more than probable that some of them are spies.

I some time ago recd. your favor of the 26th. of February, on the subject of the claims of New York and Vermont. That matter is now before Congress, by whom it can only with propriety be discussed and settled. I am &c.[75]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JACOB BAYLEY

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 9, 1781.

Sir: Lewis Vincent the Bearer of this tells me he hath had the Expectation of being paid a Lieut of the Corps of Indians, for whom he has received Pay; the Number of that Corps is so small that I could not by any means allow pay for any more Officers than are inserted in the Pay Roll; he importunes me for a present of the Horse which he rides here: as I am unacquainted with his particular Deserts, I have referred him to you; and you will be pleased to give him the Horse if you shall think his merits have intitled him to such Reward. I am &c.[76]

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, June 9, 1781.

Gentlemen: Inclosed is a list of promotions due upon the resignation of Colo. procter and an account of Vacancies in

[75] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[76] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

the 2d. and 3d. Regiments of Artillery. These promotions are agreeable to the mode of preferment established previous to the Resolve of the 25th. of May. You will oblige me by having the Commissions immediately made out and all but Lt. Colo. Carringtons[77] forwarded here. I have the honor etc.[78]

*To COLONEL WILLIAM CRAWFORD

New Windsor, June 9, 1781.

Dear Sir: Mr. Randolph[79] delivered me your letter of the 23rd. Ulto. and some time ago I was favoured with another from you. give me leave to thank you most sincerely for yr. kind attention to my Interest, and to assure you that I shall ever hold in grateful recollection your friendly endeavors to serve me.

My whole time is, and has been since I came into the Service, so much engrossed by the public duties of my station, that I have totally neglected all my private concerns, which are declining every day, and may, possibly, end in capital losses, if not absolute ruin, before I am at liberty to look after them.

With respect to the round bottom, I can give little or no information; as far as a bad Memory serves me (for I have no papers by me to refer to), I located it in the Office of Mr. Thoms. Lewis, Surveyor of Augusta, and laid some rights, which I had purchased, upon it, to the amount of the contents of your Survey but what has been done in the matter since, I know not, nor am I quite certain that all I have hear said was actually done. If without giving yourself much trouble you could enquire into this matter, and pursue the necessary

[77] Lieut. Col. Edward Carrington, of the First Continental Artillery. He was deputy quartermaster general, Southern Department, to the close of the war.

[78] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[79] Capt. David Meade Randolph(?), of the Virginia State regiment.

measures to secure this Land for me I shall acknowledge it as an act of kindness; will repay any expence you may be run to in the prosecution of the business; and make grateful returns when it is in my power to do so. I could wish to obtain a Patent for it, after obviating other claims; for I have heard, I think, that there is a caveat to prevent my obtaining a Patent.

Can you tell me how matters stand with respect to my Racoon Tract? Are the People who live on it still unconvinced of my havg. a Patent for it? If on the contrary they know, or believe, that I have such a Patent, what do they propose to do in that case? It is hard upon me, to have property which has been fairly obtained, disputed and withheld; on the other hand, if the Settlers on the Land, either through ignorance or disbelief of its being mine, have made improvements of value thereon and wish to live on and enjoy them, I would agree that they should remain Seven years longer upon their respective Plantns. on terms which should in their own eyes appear moderate and easy, even if it amounted to nothing more than a bear acknowledgt. subject nevertheless at the expiration of that term to such reasonable Rents as the Land and Improvemts. are worth; and shall be adjudged just for both Landlord and Tenant. Upon these terms I would give Leases for lives, or a great length of years; provided also (in the latter case especially) some mode can be adopted to let the value of the Rents every Seven or ten years, be so raised as to bear some proportion to the increased value of the Land.

I shall thank you for giving me information respecting this matter, and the round bottom; in general, what situation my landed affairs in that Country are in; it not being impossible nor yet very unlikely (as I can give no attention to them myself) that my other Patented Lands may be settled upon and claimed in the same way as that is on Racoon. I pray you

also to be so kind as to let me know how Simpson[80] employs his time, his force, and my Mill. He has not that I can hear of rendered any acct. or paid one farthing for the profits of my Mill or share of the Plantation since he has been on the Land, which is poor encouragement for me to leave my property in his hands. Does the boundary as it is settled between Virginia and Pensylvania affect the property of those Lands which were surveyed and Patented in Virginia, but which by the late line are thrown into Pensylvania? This, I believe, is the case with respect to my Tract on Racoon Creek if no more of it.

I shall hope to receive a long and full Acct. from you on the several matters contained in this letter by the first safe oppertunity. Should Genl. Clark be able to prosecute his intended expedition and you accompany him I sincerely wish you success in the enterprize and health to encounter the fatigues of it. My best wishes attend you, Mrs. Crawford and family; and I am etc.

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 10, 1781.

Dear Sir: I wish to know whether Gen. Du Portail has made any arrangements with you, respecting Planks for Platforms, and in that case, what measures have been taken in consequence. General Du Portail will be able to inform what number of feet will be wanted, and General Knox, at what Mills, and by what mode they may be procured.

I inclose a Copy of the Estimate of Articles, which will be required from your Department by the Engineer, and which you will be pleased to have provided.

[80] Gilbert Simpson.

The preparation of the Boats is still an object of great concern to me. I desire an immediate and accurate Return of all the public Boats from Albany to Dobb's Ferry may be made, properly Classed and specifying 1st. those actually fit for service. 2dly. Such as are repairable and repairing, and 3dly. those which are irrepairable. It is my intention that the whole of the Boats now fit for use should be instantly collected at West Point. The Adjutant General upon your requisition will furnish a party for the purpose. If the tar necessary for the repair of the Others which was expected to be sent from Albany, has not yet arrived; I should not hesitate on such an occasion to take it wherever to be found, upon the Governor's impress Warrant, or my own. A few Artificers (if necessary) might be drawn from the line, to give a rapid completion to this interesting business. I am &c.

P. S. If you should know of an opportunity to Boston before the Post goes, be good enough to inform me of it.[81]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, Sunday, June 10, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

Whilst the Troops continue in their present position the Adjutant General will attend the exercising of the Connecticut Line on Mondays and Thursdays; of the Troops on Westpoint on Tuesdays and Fridays, and at the Hampshire huts on Saturdays.

The Commanding officer or Inspector of the Connecticut Line will please to fix on a spot of ground for Exercise and send a person to the landing between six and seven o'clock tomorrow morning to conduct the Adjutant General to it.

[81] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 10, 1781.

Dear Sir: In consequence of repeated intelligence from the Northward, that the Enemy were assembled in force, to make an incursion on our frontier, I ordered Col. Hazen's Regt. and the six Companies of Col. Van Schaick's to Albany: since which I am informed that the number of the Enemy was inconsiderable, and that those Troops, are supposed, to have been drawn together near the frontier, for the purpose of enabling their Recruits from amongst us, to join them, with more safety and facility, than they could have done without such a protection. If this is the fact, it is to be regretted, the Reinforcement was sent, at a time when every Man was exceedingly wanted here, and when the absence of such a Corps, will be a great impediment to our preparations, and may be a considerable obstacle to the success of the Operations in contemplation. The Troops may however remain untill further Orders; but I would have them (agreeably to my Letter of the 5th. Inst.) kept so near together, and in such constant readiness for a movement; that they might be withdrawn at a moments Notice.

I hope before this time, the distresses of your Troops for Provision, are relieved. The salted Meat at Springfield is ordered on, (if you are still in want) possibly it might be expedient to take some Measures with the Quarter Master, at that place, to avail yourself of this supply. Mr. Phelps will also furnish a proportion of the Beef Cattle procured in that State. At the same time let me recommend to you, in the most earnest manner, that the greatest œconomy should be practised in the distribution, and consumption of Provision; especially that you

would attend minutely to the *issues* of it, and have such effectual *checks* established, as to prevent a single Ration from being issued to any person whatever, who is not properly entitled to it. A similar Regulation for this Army, is under consideration, and will be immediately adopted. I am etc.[82]

[M.L.]

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 11, 1781.

Dear Sir: I am this moment favored with yours of the same date, together with the Report of the Board of Officers, appointed to inspect Provisions.

If there are any Blunderbusses and Swivels, I have no objection that Captain Pray[83] should be furnished with them, 'tho I think, that vigilance and attention will be his surest protection against the Enemy.

I have to request that you will be pleased to attend at Head Quarters tomorrow Morning at ten OClock, and that you will forward the inclosed Notes to the Genl Officers to whom they are severally addressed. With great regard etc.[84]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, Tuesday, June 12, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

A Serjeant, Corporal, and twelve privates to be sent immediately as a guard to Lord Stirling's Quarters at deacon Brewster's one and a half mile north of General Knox's quarters and to be relieved weekly.

[82] In the writing of David Humphreys.

[83] Capt. John Pray, of the First Massachusetts Regiment. He was in command of guardboats in the Hudson, and served to June, 1783.

[84] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To COLONEL ALEXANDER SCAMMELL

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 12, 1781.

Dear Sir: I recd. your favr. of the 8th. Inst. by Colonel Reade.[85] Before I can give any opinion upon the propriety of his claim to the Rank of full Colonel, I must be informed by what means his present Commission came to be dated on the 5th. of March 1778, as Colo. Hale,[86] to whom he succeeded, did not die till long after.

I never heard that Colo. Hale had been displaced at any time previous to his death, consequently I cannot understand how the Vacancy on the 5th. of March happened. I am etc.[87]

To COLONEL DANIEL BRODHEAD

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 12, 1781.

Dear Sir: I now forward to you, a Duplicate of my letter of the 5th. of May, lest you should have missed receiving the Original, in your route from Fort Pitt to Philadelphia.

Since that Letter was written, Many Papers have been received tending to criminate your conduct. I have directed Mr Fowler who seems principally concerned in the prosecution, to specify the Charges, and obtain such testimony as he is able and thinks proper to support them. It will be necessary for you to be present at the time when these depositions are taken; I should therefore advise you to return to Fort Pitt for that purpose, as nothing can be done respecting the Trial, untill all the preparations are previously made. I am &c.[88]

[85] Lieut. Col. George Reid (Reade, Reed), of the Second New Hampshire Regiment. He served to November, 1783.

[86] Col. Nathan Hale, of the Second New Hampshire Regiment. He had been taken prisoner at Hubbardton in July, 1777, and died in September, 1780, while in captivity.

[87] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[88] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To ALEXANDER FOWLER

Head Quarters, June 12, 1781.

Sir: I wrote you under the 5th of May last respecting a Number of Charges and Accusations exhibited thro the President of Congress against Colo Brodhead; since which I have received thro' the same Channel which conveyed the former, a fresh Number of Exhibits, Depositions and Complaints, on the same Head, in which your Name appears. As this Matter seems to involve a Variety of Crimination, and in its present State appears very diffuse; and in its Prosecution before a Court Martial must be attended with great Trouble and Expence, I have to request that you will make a particular Stating of all the Matters of Charge and Accusation against the Colo; brot into one clear Point of View, with the several Allegations and Supports properly arranged; that the whole may be attended to under one comprehensive Prospect.

The particular Mode for obtaing and forwardg the Evidences which are to be taken in the Case has been already pointed out in the abovementioned Letter of the 5th. ulto.

On Compliance with the above Order a Court Martial will be instituted, when I hope this troublesome Affair will have an Issue. I am &c.[89]

BOARD OF GENERAL OFFICERS

New Windsor, June 12, 1781.

The Commander in chief informed the Board, that the principal Reason for his calling them together was, to make them acquainted with the Plan of Operations concerted between his Excellency the Count de Rochambeau and himself at their

[89] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

late Meeting at Weathersfield. He requested that they would at all Times in the Course of those Operations, give him their Advice and Opinions, individually, without Hesitation or reserve, assuring them, that he should ever receive them with Thankfulness and that, altho Circumstances or other Considerations might sometimes lay him under the Necessity of taking Measures different from what might be proposed, he hoped that would be no Impediment to their still continuing to comunicate to him their Ideas.

The Commander in Chief urged to the Board the necessity of œconomising Provisions, and recommended to the Generals, particularly the Brigadiers, the Necessity of inspecting the Returns made by their Commissaries upon every drawing Day, in Order to see that the Quantity of Rations drawn did not exceed the Number to which the Brigade was strictly intitled; assuring them that he should, in future, look upon them as answerable for any Irregularities upon this Head. He here took Occasion to state to the Board, generally, the present System of the Departments of Commissaries General of Purchases and Issues, and shewed the Impossibility of their being, upon their present Plan, a Check, as was intended, upon each other, and wished the Board to take the Matter into Consideration and report any Method which appeared to them more likely to answer the End proposed. He also desired them to take the following Matters into Consideration and report upon them accordingly.

1st: A Plan for the regular Inspection of the Magazines of Provisions; that the State of Provisions may not only be constantly known, but that the Commissaries may be called to account for any Damage which may appear, owing to their negligence.

2d: Whether the Number of issuing posts to the northward of Virginia (agreeable to a return which will be laid before

them by the Comy. General) appear to them necessary. If they do not; pointing out which, in their Opinions, ought to be abolished.

3d: A plan for Baking for the Army drawn up by General Knox.

4th: The proportion of Women which ought to be allowed to any given Number of Men, and to whom Rations shall be allowed.

5th: What Officers of the Staff shall be allowed to draw Waiters from the Line of the Army.

6th: Whether it will be safe during our Advance towards N York, and while we are operating against that place, to trust the posts at Kings ferry and West point to the following Garrisons, composed of the weakliest and worst Men, but who are always to remain in the Works assigned them.

	C.	LC.	M.	C.	L.	St.	R&F.
North Redoubts					1	2	25
Middle do				1	1	2	25
Island "				1	2	3	40
No. 1 "					1	2	25
2 "					1	2	25
3 "			1		1	2	25
4 "				1	1	2	25
Fort Putnam "				1	2	3	75
Webb "			1			1	10
Wyllys "					1	2	25
Clinton "	1			4	8	12	140
	1	1	1	9	19	33	440
Kings Ferry "							
Stoney Point "				1	1	2	30
Verplanks do "			1		1	2	30
			1	1	2	4	60
West Point "	1	1	1	9	19	33	440
Total "	1	1	2	10	21	37	500

7th: How soon will it be adviseable to encamp the Army. and what Place will it be best to draw them together in the first Instance.[90]

* To CHEVALIER DE CHASTELLUX

New Windsor, June 13, 1781.

My dear Chevr: I fear, from the purport of the letter you did me the honor to write from N: Port on the 9th, that my sentiments respecting the Council of War held on board the Duke de Burgoyne the 31st. of May have been misconceiv'd, and I shall be very unhappy if they receive an interpretation different from the true intent and meaning of them. If this is the case, it can only be attributed to my not understanding the business of the Duke de Lauzen perfectly. I will rely therefore on your goodness and candor to explain, and rectify the mistake if any has happened. My *wishes* perfectly coincided with the determination of the Board of War to continue the Fleet at Rhode Island provided it could remain there in safety and with the force required and did not impede the march of the Army towards the North River. but when Duke Lauzen informed me, that my opinion of the propriety, and safety of this measure was required by the Board, and that he came hither at the particular desire of the Counts Rochambeau and de Barras, to obtain it. I was reduced to the painful necessity of delivering a sentiment different from that of a most respectable board, or of forfeiting all pretensions to candor by the concealmt. of it; upon this ground it was I wrote

[90] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. Members present, besides the Commander in Chief, were Major Generals Stirling, Howe, Parsons, McDougall; Brigadier Generals Knox, Paterson, Hand, Huntington, and Du Portail. The general officers replied (June 13) to these queries in a 6-page folio document. This reply is in the *Washington Papers*.

to the Generals to the effect I did, and not because I was dissatisfied at the alteration of the plan agreed to at Weathersfield. My fears for the safety of the Fleet, which I am now perswaded were carried too far, were productive of a belief that the Generals, when seperated, might feel uneasy at every misterious preparation of the enemy, and occasion a fresh call for Militia; this had some weight in my determination to give Boston (where I was sure no danger could be encountered but that of a blockade a preference to Newport, where, under *some circumstances,* though not under such as were likely to happen, something might be enterprized.

The Fleet being at Rhode Island is attended certainly with many advantages in the operations proposed and I entreat you, and the Gentlemen who were of opinion that it ought to be risqued there for these purposes will be assured, that I have a high sense of the obligation you meant to confer on America by that resolve and that your Zeal to promote the common cause and my anxiety for the safety of so valuable a fleet were the only motives which gave birth to the apparent difference in our opinions.

I set that value upon your friendship and candor, and have that implicit belief in your attachment to America, that they are only to be equalled by the sincerity with which I have the honor etc.

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 13, 1781.

Sir: His Excellency the Count de Rochambeau having requested me to forward the Dispatches herewith transmitted, by the safest possible conveyance, I now do myself the honor to send them by a Gentleman of the Quarter Master General's Department.

Having been made acquainted by the Count de Rochambeau with the design of the Count de Grasse to come to this Coast with his fleet;[91] I cannot forbear expressing to your Excellency my ardent wishes that a body of land Forces might also attend this Naval Armament: as, I am apprehensive, such a decided superiority of Men may not be drawn together by us, by the time *the Count de Grasse will be here,* as to ensure our successes against the Enemy's most important Posts; as his continuance in these Seas may be limited to a short period; and as the addition of a respectable Corps of Troops from the West Indies would in all human probability, terminate the matter very soon in our favor. If these should likewise be your sentiments, and if this Plan should not interfere with the intentions, and interests of His Most Christian Majesty elsewhere, I entreat your Excellency by the first good conveyance, to represent the propriety and necessity of this Measure, to the Commanders in the West Indies; that by one great, decisive stroke, the Enemy might be expelled from the Continent, and the Independence of America established at the approaching Negociation. I have the honor etc.[92]

[91] "I have already wrote to the Count de Grasse that your Excellency had desired my marching to the north river to [strengthen or even attack N Y] when the circumstances will admit of it. I have Apprized him of the number of the garrison at New York and of the considerable forces which the enemy has sent in Virginy, that the only means which seem practicable, to your Excellency is [a diversion upon New Yk. which you propose to do as soon as the circumstances will allow of it. I have spoken to him of the Enemy's naval forces and told him that by reason of the constant wind, I thought it would be a great stroke to go to [Chesapeake Bay in which], he can make great things against the naval forces that will be there, and then the wind could bring him [in 2 days before N Yk.] that if he could bring us some [moveable Forces, 5 or 6 thousand Men More] would render our expedition much more probable and likewise by bringing us [money from] the [West Indies where] it is said that our [Bills of Exchange are at par]. I beg your Excellency, if yove any thing to add to this dispatch, to send it to me at Providence because possibly the frigate that carries my Letter may not be gone when your Excellency's answer will arrive."—*Rochambeau to Washington,* June 12, 1781. Rochambeau's letter is in the *Washington Papers.* The words in brackets in Rochambeau's letter were in cipher, translated in the writing of Washington.

[92] In the writing of David Humphreys. From a photostat of the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.,* vol. 6.

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 13, 1781.

Sir: I am honored by your Excellency's favors of the 9th. and 10th: instants; and with their very interesting communications which you may be assured will be kept perfectly secret. I flatter myself that the whole Convoy will arrive in safety in some of the Eastern ports, as I believe the British ships are all cruising off the Hook.

The Count De Barras has furnished me with the Result of the second Council of War. I have so high a respect for the opinions of the Gentlemen who composed it, that I should have been satisfied had they barely mentioned their adherence to their former determination, but the new arguments which have been introduced in favor of the detention of the *Fleet* at *Rhode Island* leaves me no room to doubt of the propriety of the measure.

I am so fully convinced that your Excellency will make no unnecessary delay in your march, that I have only occasion to repeat my former request, that it may be commenced as soon as circumstances will admit. My last accounts from the Marquis de la Fayette were of the 3d. of June. The British Army, in very considerable force, were then between Richmond and Fredericksburg; their destination was uncertain, but from their superiority they were at full liberty to go wherever they pleased. The inclosed Copy of a letter from the president of Congress to me will give your Excellency the latest intelligence from South Carolina.

Your requisitions to the *Count De Grasse,* go to every thing I could wish. You cannot, in my opinion, too strongly urge the necessity of bringing a *Body of Troops* with him, more

especially, as I am very dubious whether our force can be drawn together by the time he proposes to be here. Now *4000* or *5000 Men* in addition to what we shall certainly have by that time, would almost beyond a doubt, enable us, with the assistance of the *Fleet* to carry our object. It is to be regretted that the *Counts* stay upon this *Coast* will be limited. That consideration is an additional reason for wishing a force equal to giving a speedy determination to the operation.

Your Excellency will be pleased to recollect that *New York* was looked upon by us as the only practicable object under present circumstances; but should we be able to secure a *naval superiority,* we may perhaps find others more practicable and equally advisable. If the *Frigate* should not have sailed, I wish you to explain this matter to the *Count de Grasse,* as, if I understand you, you have in your communication to him, confined our views to *New York* alone. And instead of advising him to run immediately into *Chesapeak,* will it not be best to leave him to judge, from the information he may from time to time receive of the situation of the *enemy's Fleet* upon this *Coast,* which will be the most advantageous quarter for him to make his *appearance* in.[93] In the letter which was written to the Minister from Weathersfield, in which he was requested to urge the *Count* to come this way with his *whole Fleet, Sandy Hook* was mentioned as the most desirable point. Because, by coming suddenly there he would certainly *block* up any *fleet* which might be *within;* and he would even have a

[93] Rochambeau's *Memoires* show that he went rather beyond the point of leaving this matter to De Grasse, for he informed the French admiral that it was his private opinion that a move against Cornwallis, who was then being opposed by Lafayette in Virginia, would be the most practicable and least expected by the enemy, as the allied armies were so far away from that quarter. It seems evident that Rochambeau did not consider the chances of success in an operation against New York City to be great. He acquiesced in Washington's desire, but submitted the decision to De Grasse in such language that was almost inevitable that the latter would sail to the Chesapeake.

very good chance of *forcing* the *entrance* before dispositions could be made to *oppose* him. Should the *British Fleet* not be there, he could follow them to *Chesapeak,* which is always accessible to a superior force. I have the Honor &c.[94]

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 13, 1781.

Dear Sir: I wrote to You on the 8th. instant urging the Necessity of having the Supplies of Provision, Rum, and Clothing immediately forwarded from the States. These Things are of such immense Importance to all our Plans, that they cannot be repeated too often, or pressed with too much Importunity. And I know there is Nothing so likely to succeed as incessant Representations on the Spot.

In Addition to the Task already imposed upon You, by your former Commission, I must now entreat You, to turn a Share of your Attention to the Recruits of the several States. Let them be called upon again and again in the most earnest Manner, to fill their Battalions, and that instantly. Surely, if the States had a proper Idea of our Circumstances for Want of Men, our Prospects if we had them, and our fixed Designs of carrying on offensive Operations at all Events, they would exert themselves beyond any thing they have formerly done. They can, they must compleat their Battalions if it is only for the Campaign.

The Recruits and Drafts must be hurried on as fast as possible. The Militia which have been requested of the Eastern States must also be held in Readiness to march when called for, as formerly ordered.

[94] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman, who has noted that "All those Words under which Strokes are drawn were written in Cypher." Those words appear in italics in the text.

In my last I mentioned forwarding the Clothing which had lately arrived from Spain, I request you will attend to and expedite this Business, that it may not be stopped a Day on the Road from its leaving Boston to its Arrival in Camp, And that You will advise me when it may be expected. With great regard etc.[95] [MS. H. S.]

To COMTE DE BARRAS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 13, 1781.

Sir: I had yesterday the honor of receiving your Excellency's letter of the 9th: instant accompanied by the result of the second Council of War. I have so great a respect for the opinions of the Gentlemen who composed it, that I should have been satisfied, had they barely mentioned that they had, upon a reconsideration of the subject, thought it most conducive to the common interest to adhere to their former determination; but the new arguments which have been introduced in favor of the detention of the Fleet at Newport, aided by those expressed by your Excellency in your letter, leave me no room to doubt of the propriety of the measure. I feel very sensibly and I beg you will make my acknowledgements to the Gentlemen of the Marine for the reasons which induced them, personally, to wish to remain in the Road of Newport rather than remove to that of Boston.

I shall be happy to have it in my power to congratulate you upon the safe arrival of your whole Convoy. His Excellency The Count de Rochambeau informs me in a letter of a later date than yours that they had not all got into port. I have the honor etc.[96]

[95] In the writing of Richard Varick.
[96] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, June 13, 1781.

Sir: I have yours of Yesterday inclosing Letter from Genl Waterbury. If the Information is to be depended upon all the Whale Boats and the Cattle should be removed as soon as may be; the first on Carriages, or otherwise as may be found convenient. Colonel Scammell may be ordered towards the Point of Operation, and make such use of the Troops on the Line as his Discretion may direct; establishing a Communication with Genl Waterbury so that he may be able to form a Junction with him if Occasion shall require.

Colo Scammell should not Advance too far on his Left on vague Information, as in that Case his right and our Front may be too much exposed. I am &c.[97]

To MAJOR GENERAL BENJAMIN LINCOLN

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 13, 1781.

Dear Sir: I did myself the Pleasure to write you under the 11th May ulto, which went on by the Hand of Majr Genl Heath, who was intrusted with a particular Commission to the Eastern States. In that Letter I mentioned your comg. on to join the Army.

Least the above Letter should by any means have miscarried, I take this opportunity to mention my wishes to you again; and to request you will be pleased to come on to the Army as soon as possible after the Receipt of this. With much Regard etc.[98]

[97] The draft is in the writing of Richard Varick.
[98] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor,
Wednesday, June 13, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

Fifty Boatbuilders and Ship Carpenters, or other carpenters to complete the deficiency of the former.

Twenty four Wood cutters and four nailors, to be immediately sent to the Quarter master General.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WATERBURY

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 13, 1781.

Sir: Major General Howe has transmitted to me your Letter of the 11th Inst. Should it be confirmed, that the Enemy are meditating an Enterprise for the purposes you suppose,[99] I would recommend that the Cattle contiguous to the lines and Boats at Stamford should be removed in such a Manner as to disappoint them of their Objects as far as possible. In the mean time I have ordered Col Scammell, with his Detachment to move towards you, to support your Corps, and annoy the Enemy, as circumstances may require. If it is probable, the Enemy will move in force from Kingsbridge, it would be well to form a junction between Your Troops and Col Scammell's Detachment, or in any case to keep up a constant communication with him.

As the whole Army, will probably take the field in a few days; I have to request that you will hold the Troops under your Command in the most perfect readiness for a Movement: and that you will without delay, make an accurate Return to me of the strength of the State Regiments, Watermen, and

[99] A British raid to destroy the whaleboats at Stamford, Conn.

also of the number of Horse and Artillery attached to your command, or raised by Government for the defence of the State, specifying at what places they are stationed, that I may know with precision the force which may actually be depended upon. I am &c.[1]

To COLONEL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 14, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have been favored with yours of the 2nd. instant. It is very unaccountable that so many Indications of an Evacuation of New York should be reported to You and that they should come from no other Quarter. I have a very good Channel of Intelligence by the Way of Long Island and no Movement is mentioned but that of a Fleet bound to Europe. I cannot help suspecting that there may be some Design in propagating the Report of an Evacuation, while they have some other Purpose in View. You cannot oblige me more than endeavouring to ascertain whether any Thing extraordinary, and what, is passing among them.

It appears very odd to me that Mr. Halstead[2] should plead Ignorance of the Charges on which Mr. Adams was arrested, as they were laid expressly upon the Information and upon Depositions transmitted by him to Mr. Clarke a Member of Congress for the State of Jersey, which were, by the President, forwarded to me with Orders to call Mr. Adam to account. You will please to direct the Court to make up their Proceedings and desire the Judge Advocate to be clear and full in reporting the Cause of their rising for Want of Evidence should none appear upon the Summons. You will send the Proceedings to me. I am etc.

[1] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.
[2] Brigade Major Mathias(?) Halsted (Halstead), aide to General Dickinson.

P. S. I have recd. yours of the 10th. and have ordered as full a proportion of Cloathing to be delivered to your Quarter Master as our present small stock will admit.[3]

To ABRAHAM SKINNER

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 14, 1781.

Sir: Upon my return from Weathersfield I found yours of the 19th. May inclosing sundry propositions of the British Commissary of prisoners. That of setting Genl. Burgoyne against the disputed claim of the Cedars, is inadmissible; nor can I say any thing to the proposal respecting the Charlestown prisoners, as I have good reason to believe that a Cartel has been settled between General Greene and Lord Cornwallis, though I know nothing of the terms or in what manner they are to be carried into execution.

It is very strange that our privates should be detained in New York when a considerable indisputed Balance of those under that description is due to us, and when it neither interferes with the southern or convention prisoners. I can only recommend it to you to press Mr. Loring to the release of all who are at present in New York.

I should have answered you sooner, but I have been in daily expectation of seeing you, as I was told you were to have returned immediately from Eliza. Town. I am &c.

P. S. General Greene has since writing the above furnished me with a Copy of the Cartel entered into between him and Lord Cornwallis, by which the Charlestown prisoners are to be exchanged for those taken to the southward.[4]

[3] In the writing of Richard Varick; the P. S. is in that of Tench Tilghman. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Julian F. Thompson, of Bridgeport, Conn.

[4] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, Thursday, June 14, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

The regimental surgeons are requested to make returns immediately to the Chief Physician and Surgeon of the Army, of all the medicines on hand and what articles they are in want of, that they may receive orders on the Apothecary at Fishkill to supply them as far as his stock on hand will admit of.

An exact return of all the women with the army who draw provisions from the public is to be given in at the orderly office as soon as may be.

The Quarter master General is immediately to make the best provision of straw in his power at or near Peekskill for the use of the Troops who are to be encamped at that place.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, Friday, June 15, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

It is with singular pleasure the Commander in Chief congratulates the army on the success of our arms under Major General Greene in South Carolina.

On the 10th. May, Lord Rawdon who commanded the post of Camden was compelled to evacuate it with great precipitation and marks of distress after destroying the stores and several Buildings and leaving three officers and fifty eight men who were too badly wounded to be removed.

On the 11th. the strong post of Orangeburgh surrendered to General Sumpter upon his making preparations to invest it, a Colonel with several other officers and upwards of eighty

men were made prisoners; on the 12th. the Garrison of Fort Mott consisting of one Captain three Lieutenants three Ensigns, one Serjeant Major, one serjeant eight Corporals, two Drummers and fifers and one hundred and sixty-five privates surrendered prisoners of War to Brigadier General Marion who had carried his approaches to the foot of the Abbatis. and on the 15th. Fort Granby was surrendered by Capitulation to Lieutenant Colonel Lee the troops composing the Garrison consisted of one Lieutenant Colonel two Majors, Six Captains, six Lieutenants, three Ensigns one Surgeon two Serjeant Majors, seventeen Serjeants nine Corporals and three hundred and five privates who were all made prisoners. Considerable quantities of stores and provisions were also captured at the several Posts.

The General has the further pleasure of informing the army that the Posts of Augusta and Ninety six were invested by General Pickins and must in all probability have fallen before this time as General Greene had also march'd his Army to assist in the reduction of them.

These brilliant repeated successes which reflect so much glory on the Southern army will be attended with the most important consequences to those States and are a happy presage of our being able speedily to expel the Enemy from every part of the Continent, with proper exertions.

David Cobb, Esqr.[5] Lieutenant Colonel of the 9th Massachusetts regiment, is appointed Aid de Camp to the Commander in Chief and is to be respected and obeyed accordingly.

No men to be transferred to the Corps of Invalids untill further orders.

[5]Appointed lieutenant colonel commandant of the Fifth Massachusetts Regiment in January, 1783, and served as aide to Washington to December, 1783.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 15, 1781.

Dear Sir: I am favored with your Letter of the 7th. Inst. The Letter from Governor Greene to which you allude, has never been received.

Finding that it may be necessary to commence our operations at an earlier period than was expected, I have called upon the States, to have the Militia required of them, raised and marched in such time as that they will join the Army punctually by the 15th of July. It is my earnest desire, that you will urge in the most forcible terms the necessity of a pointed compliance with this requisition, as well as of sending on all the Levies for the Continental Battalions.

I am pleased with the representations of the favorable dispositions of the States which I receive from almost every quarter. I lament the embarrassments they experience, and fear, without a spirited and constant exertion, we shall be again disappointed in the essential Article of Beef Cattle; as some Gentlemen of Consideration from Boston, who saw Mr Phelps the Superintendant of Purchases, inform me, that he has had the mortification of not being able to obtain Cattle for the supply of the Army this Week, and that he will not be able to purchase, unless further provision is made for it. A repetition of disappointment, I need not tell you, will be attended with fatal consequences.

Since the Enemy formed a junction of their several Corps in Virginia, I have not heard that any thing important has happened: 'Tho the want of Arms for the Militia, and of a regular force exclusive of them, to check the progress of the Enemy will I apprehend expose the Country to great

temporary Calamities and Depredations. But to convince us, that their conquests are of short duration; while Lord Cornwallis is playing this strange game in Virginia; General Greene is depriving him of all the Posts he had occupied in South Carolina. On the 10th of May, Lord Rawdon was compelled to evacuate Camden with precipitation, leaving behind him three of his Officers and 58 Privates, who had been so dangerously wounded as to be unable to be removed. On the 11th. the strong Post of Orangeburgh surrendered to General Sumpter: A Colonel, several Officers, and upwards of eighty Men were made Prisoners. On the 12th. The Garrison of Fort Mott consisting of 7 Officers, 12 Non Commissioned Officers and 165 Privates surrendered by capitulation to General Marion. On the 15th Fort Granby capitulated to Lt Col Lee. The Garrison were made Prisoners, and consisted of 1 Lt Col 2 Majors, 6 Capts, 6 Lieuts, 3 Ensigns, 1 Surgeon 2 Serjt. Majors 17 Serjts. 9 Corpls, and 305 Privates. Large quantities of Provisions and considerable Stores were captured at some of the Posts.

At the same time, the Posts of Augusta and Ninety Six were invested by General Pickens. And General Greene on the 16th of May had determined to march the Army to expedite their reduction.

Thus are our affairs in that quarter situated, at this momentuous crisis, when the eyes of the whole world are upon us, when the weakness of the Enemy's most important Posts in every part, and the dispersed state of their Troops invite us, and when our own circumstances impel us to make one great effort in conjunction with our generous Allies to drive our foes entirely from the Continent. I am etc.

P. S. I entreat you to attend particularly to the several things mentioned in my Letter of the 13th.[6] [MS. H. S.]

[6] In the writing of David Humphreys.

To THE EASTERN CONTINENTAL NAVY BOARD[7]

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 15, 1781.

Gentlemen: I have been informed that you have in your possession twenty pieces of Cannon 18 pounders belonging to the Continent. We are now in the greatest want of heavy Artillery and if you have no immediate use for those pieces or no orders for their particular disposal you will oblige me by delivering them to Colo. Crane of the Artillery who will undertake to forward them to this place. We are likewise very deficient of the quantity of powder necessary for the operation which we have in view. If you have any of that Article on hand which can be spared or if any has arrived in the Alliance or should shortly arrive, you will be pleased also to deliver as much as you can, without interfering with the service of the Marine, to Colonel Crane. I have the honor etc.[8]

To PRESIDENT MESHECH WEARE

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 15, 1781.

Sir: I have been honored with your Favor of the 4th instant. In the Calculation which I made at Wethersfield, of the Aid of Militia which would be necessary to support the Operation which we have in View, I included sixteen hundred from Pennsylvania, but that State having been since called upon to embody and march two thousand four hundred Men immediately to the Assistance of Virginia, I am obliged to add the Number which I shall be disappointed in from Pennsylvania, to the Quota required from the other States; your Proportion of them will be two hundred and fifty which with the

[7] Then composed of James Warren and William Vernon, at Boston, Mass.
[8] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Requisition of the 24th. of May will make in the whole six hundred and fifty.[9]

I need not enter into a Repetition of the Arguments which were made Use of in my Letter of the 24th. of May to induce the most strenuous Exertions to fill up the Continental Battalions. I will only say, that our Success will depend upon that being done. Without it, there is not a Chance, and with it We have the fairest Prospect. these Men must be sent forward as fast as they are raised.

I am in Hopes that the Assembly will, at their present Meeting, take effectual Measures for supplying the Quota of Beef called for in the Requisitions which were laid before You by Major General Heath. You must be fully sensible that our whole Dependence for Provisions is up the Exertions of the States, and that without their punctual Compliance with the Demands made upon them, the Force which will be collected must soon disband. Whereby the immense Expence which we are now incurring will be so much dead Loss, and the Consequences, in a political View, of a most serious and alarming Nature I have the Honor etc.

PS. By a general Return of the 9th instant the total Amount of your two Regiments was 598. in wch. are included 98 Recruits; being all which had joined up to the 1st Instant.[10]

[N.H.H.S.]

To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 15, 1781.

Sir: I flatter myself that proper measures have been before this time taken to procure the number of Men, for Continental

[9]At this point in the draft the following is crossed out: "From circumstances, I have reason to expect that our operations will commence somewhat earlier than I at first expected. You will therefore be pleased to give orders for the Militia to march in such time that they may punctually join the Army by the 15th. of July next."

[10]In the writing of Richard Varick; the P. S. is in that of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

and Militia service, required by my letter of the 24th. of May from Weathersfield. In the calculation which I then made of the aid of Militia which would be necessary to support the operation....[11] Your proportion of them will be 500, which with the requisition of the 24th of May will make in the whole 2700. Your Excellency will be pleased to consider this number as independant of the 500 which I desired by my letter of the 4th. of June, might be ordered to Rhode Island.

From circumstances, I have reason to expect that our operations will commence somewhat earlier than I at first expected. Your Excellency will therefore be pleased to give orders for the 2700 Militia intended for this service to march in such time that they may punctually join the Army by the 15th. of July next.

I am convinced that I need not enter into a repetition of the arguments. . . .[11] I have the honor etc.

P. S. I must particularly intreat your Excellency's attention to my requests of the 25th. ulto. and 2d. instant for Powder and Cannon. If, as I have been informed, the State is possessed of large quantities of materials for making powder, which can with facility be worked up at the Mills of Stoughton and Andover, they can with more safety and convenience afford to make a loan to the continent, at this important moment, as they may replenish their Magazines by working up the materials. I have some reason to expect to obtain twenty 18 pound Cannon from the Navy Board at Boston, should I succeed, there will be no occasion of borrowing any from the State. Of this Colo. Crane will inform your Excellency. We shall I imagine at any rate be under the necessity of craving assistance for so heavy a transportation, and I shall therefore esteem it an

[11] The omitted portions duplicate parts of Washington's letter to President Meshech Weare, the same date as this letter, *q. v.*

additional obligation, if thro' your Excellency's influence the Quarter Master can derive some aid.

By a General Return of the 9th Inst. the total Amount of your ten Regiments of Infantry was 2827. in which are included 1417 Recruits which were all that had joined up to the 1st. Instant, 114 Recruits had joined the Regt. of Artillery.[12]

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 15, 1781.

Sir: I flatter myself . . . Your Proportion of them will be six hundred, which with the Requisition of the 24th. of May will make in the whole two thousand one hundred.

From Circumstances . . . I have the Honor etc.

PS. By a general Return of the 9th. instant, the total Amount of your five Regiments of Infantry was 1668. in which are included 563. Recruits, being all that had joined up to the 1st Instant.[13]

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 15, 1781.

Sir: I flatter myself . . . Your proportion of them will be 250, which with the requisition of the 27th of May will make in the whole 750.

From circumstances . . . The Officer commanding may be directed to give me notice when he is ready to march from his place of rendezvous that I may halt him upon the West Side of the Hudson or order him over as the situation of affairs may require.

[12] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[13] In the writing of Richard Varick; the P. S. is in that of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

I am convinced . . .

Of all the difficulties which surround me I fear none more than a want of subsistence for the number of Men which will be shortly drawn together. My whole dependance is upon the supplies demanded from the several States, and if they fail in a regular and efficient compliance, We must disband. Our immense expence . . .[14] The State of New Jersey having been, for the several late Campaigns, in a manner the Theatre of War, has been under the necessity of furnishing very great supplies to the Army, altho' they have not been exactly in the Articles specifically required by Congress, and as that will probably be the case in the present, I have made my principal requisitions for Flour and Meat upon Pennsylvania and the Eastern States. But as I still am very apprehensive of a deficiency, I must intreat your Excellency to endeavour to prevail upon the Legislature to make provision for procuring as much as they possibly can of their quota of those Articles. Nothing in nature can be more repugnant to my inclination than to be obliged to have recourse to military coercion for subsistence, it being not only highly disgusting and oppressive to the inhabitants, but ruinous of the discipline of an Army. The more therefore that can be regularly obtained, the less occasion will there be for measures of a disagreeable kind. I have the honor etc.[15]

To PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 15, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have been honored with your Favors of the 17th. of May and 6th. of this Month, the first did not reach me until the 7th. inst. By the Rules of Promotion which existed

[14] The omitted portions in this and the preceding letter duplicate a part of Washington's letter to Governor John Hancock, the same date as this letter, *q. v.*

[15] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

previous [to the resolve of Congress of] the 25th. of May, Lieut Colo. Carrington of the 1st. Regiment of Artillery will succeed to the Command of the 4th. Vice Procter and Lieut Colo. Forrest, if he remains in Service, must be removed to the 1st. Your Excellency has therefore only to call upon Lieut Colo. Carrington or commanding Officer, for an accurate Return of the Officers of the Regimt. and I make no doubt but it will be immediately furnished.

The Proceedings of the Court Martial on the Case of Lieut Bigham[16] were transmitted to me from Philadelphia and the Sentence, by which he was cashierd, has been approved. The Court unanimously recommended a Restoration of his Rank, but I could not think myself justifiable in doing it.

In Consideration of the Number of Militia which have been required from the State, for the Assistance of Virginia, I have thought it but equitable to withdraw my request for the sixteen hundred Men which were intended to act with the Army. This I hope will enable Your Excellency with the more Ease to procure the Means of raising and equipping those for the Southern Service.

I must confess to You that I am not a little alarmed at the Complexion of Your Excellency's Letter of the 17th. of May, as I cannot find that You are able to give me the least Assurance of a further Supply of Flour, and there is no other Quarter from whence it can be drawn in sufficient Quantities, by any Means within our Power. While I regret that internal Disputes and Divisions have for some Time past deprived us of the Resources of one of the most powerful States in the Union, I cannot but hope that Unanimity will take Place at the present Crisis, which is perhaps the most important of any which America has yet experienced. From your Excellency's Zeal and

[16] Bingham.

Inclinations I have every Thing to expect, and I shall anxiously wait to hear how your Recommendations have been received and seconded by the Legislature. I have the Honor etc.[17] [H.S.P.]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 16, 1781.

Dear Sir: In my Letters of the 5th. and 10th Inst. I intimated to you the necessity of keeping the Reinforcements lately sent to the Northward as much together as possible, and in such constant readiness for a movement, as that they might be recalled, if necessary, on the shortest warning. I must now inform you, that the Operations, which have been concerted between His Excellency the Count de Rochambeau, and myself against New York, will probably compel me to withdraw not only these Troops, but also the remainder of Van Schaick's, and the whole of Cortland's Regiment.

[18] I give you this previous Notice, that proper measures may be taken on the occasion, that the Inhabitants may not be disappointed in their expectations, and that the greatest possible number of Men for the Campaign, and Levies for the three Years service, may be drawn together to relieve the Garrison's at the several Posts, and defend the Frontiers, whenever all the Continental Troops shall be ordered from thence.

You will be pleased to observe, nothing but absolute necessity will induce me to Order the Regular Troops from the Northward; and I request therefore, it may be understood, that when the Measure becomes indispensably necessary, there is not any thing which can divert me from it. I am etc.[19] [N.Y.H.S.]

[17] In the writing of Richard Varick. The words in brackets in the draft, which is in the writing of Tilghman, are in the writing of Washington.

[18] At this point on the original is the following marginalia in the writing of Clinton: "Note this and the following Clauses were copied and transmitted to Col. Willet."

[19] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To JACOB CUYLER

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 16, 1781.

Sir: By a letter from General Schuyler, I am informed that he has purchased one thousand Barrels of Flour for the Army by order of Mr. Morris. 500 are sent down here and the remainder are detained at Albany untill I give further directions concerning them. You will be pleased to deliver them to the order of Brig. Genl. Clinton for the use of the troops to the Northward. I have taken the liberty to address you upon this subject, at the desire of Genl. Schuyler, who will probably have left Albany to attend the Legislature at Poughkepsie. I am &c.[20]

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 16, 1781.

Dear Sir: Mr Pierce, Pay Master General of the Army will have the honor of delivering this Letter; he waits upon your Excellency to see, whether any ways and means can be devised to procure Money for the payment of the Troops of the New York Line. It is a matter of such interesting importance, that I cannot forbear recommending it to the earliest and most serious attention of the State. I have the honor &c.[21]

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 16, 1781.

Dear Sir: This will be delivered your Excellency by Lt. Colo. Stevens, at present commanding officer of Colo. Lambs Regiment of Artillery. His Business is to lay before you a particular State of the Regiment, by which it will appear that it is yet

[20] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[21] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

very deficient of its establishment and that there is little or no prospect of compleating it by any measures at present in agitation. I have desired Colo. Stevens to make your Excellency acquainted with the number of Recruits who have joined, as I am apt to think that they have been estimated at more than they are in reallity.

The operations of this Campaign will probably occasion an uncommon demand for Artillery Men. If they can be obtained for three years or the War, it will be undoubtedly preferable, but if not, it will be better to take them for the Campaign only, than be under the necessity of drafting from the Infantry. This we shall be obliged to do, to the great weakening of Corps already too weak, if proper Artillery Men are not raised. I have the Honor etc.[22]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 16, 1781.

Sir: I have the Honor of your Excellencys Favr. of the 6th instant, inclosing sundry Petitions, Complaints and Evidence against Colo Brodhead, having before this received a Number of other Papers respecting Colo Brodheads Conduct, and observing that these Complaints have been exhibited in a very diffuse Manner, and will involve a Variety of Matter; I have written to Mr. Fowler, Auditor of the Public Accounts at Fort Pitt, who appears to be a Principal in these Complaints, to state them all in one general View, exhibiting the several Charges under distinct Heads, with their several Supports and Evidences; when these are received, a Court will be instituted and Colo Brodhead will have his Trial upon the Charges against him, and I hope the Matter will be brot to a proper Issue.

[22] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Your Excellencys Favor. of the same Date with the above, containg. Intelligence from the Southward, and inclosing a Resolution of Congress of 2d instt. respecting the Bills of Credit issuing in Pursuance of the Act of 18th March 1780, is also duly received.

By Letters from Genl Greene of the 10th and 16th of May, just come to Hand, our Affairs in that Quarter seem to put on a promising Aspect. I most sincerely congratulate your Excellency on the happy Event.[23] I have the Honor etc.[24]

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 16, 1781.

Dear Sir: In my letter of this date by Colo. Stevens I only mentioned the necessity of filling Colo. Lambs Regiment of Artillery. There are the same reasons for compleating the two Regiments of Infantry. Let me entreat your Excellency to press the Legislature to devise means of procuring the deficiency for the Campaign only, if they cannot be obtained upon better terms. I have the honor etc.

P. S. Every exertion should be made to fill the three years and eight Months State Regiments, as our operations in this quarter may probably require the Continental Regt. at present at the Northward.[25]

*To BRIGADIER GENERAL LOUIS LE BÈQUE DU PORTAIL

New Windsor, June 17, 1781.

Dear Sir: I inclose to you, the arrangement of the Army. If there is any place more proper than the one I have assigned for

[23] Fall of Fort Granby, S. C.
[24] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.
[25] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

the Engineers, and Corps of Sappers and Miners, pray let me have your sentimts. thereon by return of the bearer, as I want to publish the whole in the Orders of this day.

If it is convenient to you, it would be my wish that you and the Q M Genl. should view, tomorrow, a spot to form our first Encampment upon. When I hear from you, I will give him notice. With much truth etc.

To CAPTAIN THOMAS HUNT

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 17, 1781.

Sir: Being fully sensible, that your knowledge of the Western Parts of the Sound is more accurate, than that of any other Person, I should be extremely glad to see you on that account; especially as there are many questions which I would wish to ask, that cannot be answered except in conversation.

I have therefore to request (if your business will possibly admit) that you will have the goodness to come to this Place as soon as you can conveniently. I am etc.[26]

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 17, 1781.

Sir: I have the pleasure of inclosing your Excellency Copies of two letters from Major General Greene, by which it appears that an agreeable train of successes have attended our Affairs in south Carolina. The consequences will be important, but they would be more so, had we a sufficient force in that quarter to pursue the advantages we have gained. I have heard nothing further from the Marquis de la Fayette since the 3d. inst.

[26] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

Were it practicable for the Count de Barras, by arming the Fantasque and joining the 50 Gun ship lately arrived from France to his fleet, to put himself so nearly upon an equality with the enemy as to enable him to take a position with security in Chesapeak Bay, it would be of the utmost importance at this moment, as it would effectually prevent a reunion of the Enemy's forces; and by preventing those in Virginia from receiving any supplies by water, they would soon be reduced to very great difficulties and distresses. I barely mention this as an Idea which has struck me, not as a matter which I would undertake to advise, unacquainted as I am with naval affairs. I have the honor etc.[27]

*To JOSEPH WEBB

New Windsor, June 17, 1781.

Dear Sir: Inclosed is my measure for a pair of draw-Boots, Horse Skin[28] to be made of the Leather manufactured at your Works. The measure is exact, and I should be glad to have the Boots well made, neat, and sent to me as soon as possible, with the price in specie, which shall be immediately forwarded to you.

Upon my return from Weathersfield I found Mrs. Washington extremely unwell, she still continues low and Weak, but will set out for the Southward as soon as she can bear the fatiegue of the journey; she joins me in compliments and best wishes to yourself, Mrs. and Miss Webb. I cannot conclude without assuring you that I have a high sense of your politeness and attention to me while I was at Weathersfield; and that I should at all times be happy to see you at head Qrs. I am etc.

[27] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[28] Boots was starred by Washington, and the two words "Horse Skin" were written in the margin with an asterisk.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, Sunday, June 17, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

A Detachment to be immediately drawn out from the different Brigades for the Garrison of West Point. The Noncommissioned officers and privates to be composed of such as are the weakest and least fit for field duty.

A Serjeant Corporal and eight men to be sent to Warwick on the road to Sussex Court House tomorrow for the Protection of the Commissaries stores there. The Serjeant when he arrives will take his orders from the Keeper of the Magazine, and continue on that duty untill relieved, or dismissed by the Keeper of the Magazine.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, Monday, June 18, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

The Troops at Westpoint and in the vicinity of it will be Brigaded as follows and are to Encamp in that order when they remove to Peekskill, 'till then no alterations will be made in the Present disposition of them: Right Wing: Majr. Genl. Heath: ———, Olney, R. I. R[egt.]; Butler, 4 C[onn.]; Swift, 2 C. Brigr. Genl. Huntington—Webb's, 3 C.; Sherman, 5 C.; Durkee, 1 C. Left Wing: Major Genl. Lord Stirling: Brigadr. Genl. Glover—Vose, 1 M[ass.]; Brooks, 7 M.; Sheppard, 4 M. Brigr. Genl. Patterson—Sproat, 2 M.; M. Jackson, 8 M.; Putnam, 5 M. Second Line: Major Genl. Parsons—Howe. Scammell, 1 N[ew] H[ampshire]; Read, 2 N. H.; Tupper, 10 M. Genl. Knox—Park of Artillery. Genl. Duportail—Engineers and Sapprs. and Minrs. Major Genl. Lincoln—Howe. Greaton, 3 M.; Henry Jackson, 9 M.; Smith, 6. M.

When the Troops assemble at Peekskill General McDougall is to take command of the Post of Westpoint and its dependencies and will remain there 'till the army commences its operations when he will be relieved.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, Tuesday, June 19, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

The Army will march for its encampment in the Vicinity of Peekskill in the following order, and on the days named if the Weather will permit.

First The division commanded by Major General Parsons (agreeably to the arrangement of yesterday) on thursday the 21st.

next., General Lincoln's Division on the 22d.

then. General Howe's on the 23d.

The Quarter Master General will point out the ground.

The Officers commanding these divisions are to make the necessary arrangements with the Quarter Master General for removing the troops to their ground, providing them with tents &ca.

The Detachments intended to Garrison West Point and its dependencies are to repair to the Barracks on the Point as their divisions respectively march.

General Knox will furnish such field Pieces to each division when it marches, as he can conveniently man without interrupting the important work he has on hand.

The Corps of Sappers and Miners may move when General Du Portail (who will have respect to the business they are now engaged in) shall order.

A Captain, five subs, six serjeants and one hundred rank and file of the best Oars men in the Army are to be drawn from

the line at large, in as equal proportion as such men can be had and placed under the command of Major Darby[29] who is to receive all the boats ordered to Westpoint and will put them in the best order he can.

Major Darby will consult with the Quarter master General and give every aid in his power to collect the boats in the river to a point and will determine what repairs it may be in his power to bestow on them that measures may be taken accordingly.

The difficulty of transportation must be too obvious to the army to need exposition, but were the Case otherwise the operations of the Campaign will more than probably, be of such a nature as to render it not only advisable but indispensably necessary to encumber the field as little as possible with Baggage. The Commander in Chief does therefore in most pointed terms recommend to officers of every rank commanding Corps to divest themselves of every species of Baggage that they can possibly do without, and will see that all others under their respective orders do the like; if this timely admonition is disregarded they must abide the consequences.

No Women will be suffered to ride in waggons or walk in the ranks this Campaign unless there are very particular reasons for it, of which the General Officer or officer commanding the Division or brigade to which they belong is to be the judge; a written permission only will avail; without this the officers of the day or police are not only authorized to turn them out, but requested to inflict instant punishment upon those who shall be found transgressors of this order.

Every Mess must carry its own Camp Kettle unless otherwise directed in General Orders; officers of every rank are to

[29] Maj. Samuel Darby, of the Seventh Massachusetts Regiment. He was transferred to the Eighth Massachusetts Regiment in January, 1783, and served to June, 1783.

consider themselves as responsible for the orders of this day so far as respects the corps they command and to report delinquencies in others.

Captain Lieutenant Gilliland,[30] of the corps of Sappers and Miners, is promoted to the rank of Captain in the same, vice McMurray resign'd the 1st. June 1781, and Captain Lieutenant Bushnell of the same Corps is promoted to the rank of Captain vice Bæbe,[31] resigned 8 June 1781.

Jonathan Lawrence, Esqr, Lieutenant in late Malcolms regiment is appointed to the rank of Captain in the Corps of Sappers and Miners, his Commission to bear date from the 12th. June 1781.

A Return to be made to the Adjutant General by Thursday next from each regiment of all the men, by name, that are acquainted with the use of rifles.

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 19, 1781.

Sir: I have the Honor of your Excellency's Letter of the 15th. Being fully persuaded of your active Zeal and Wish to join the Army under my Command, I have only to intimate to you, my desire that you will not hurry your Troops by too rapid a March; but suffer them to make such Halts on their Rout, as you shall find convenient and necessary.

By Information received from the Enemy at N York It seems they are taking a position not far from East Chester, where they are markg out an Encampment. This Movement I conjecture to be formed with a Design of covering their Foraging Parties, which will probably at this Season be very busily employed.

[30] Capt. James Gilliland. He resigned in October, 1782.
[31] Capt. James Beebe.

Inclosed you will find Extracts from a Letter I have this Moment received from Genl Sullivan: the intelligence it contains is not official; but from some other concurrent Information, I have but too much Reason to fear it is too well founded. a prize is lately taken and carried into Philadelphia, the Captain of which mentions his sailing from Cork some time towards the last of March, and that a Fleet, like that mentioned in the Extract with 400 Troops on Board, bound for the Coasts of America, had sailed from the same Port on the 27th. March.

If this Intelligence should prove true, the Enemy may give us much Trouble in the Southern Quarter, untill they are seriously opposed in Force, or their Intentions Diverted to some other Object. I have the honor etc.[32]

To PHILIP SCHUYLER

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 19, 1781.

Dear Sir: I find upon further enquiry respecting the Boats it will be absolutely necessary to avail ourselves of the aid you was so obliging as to offer in our conversation on Sunday last. The Quarter Master General will wait upon you tomorrow on the subject. Any information or assistance you can give him, which may tend to expedite the preparation of an Article so essential to our proposed operations will be gratefully acknowledged by Dear Sir &c.[33]

To COMTE DE BARRAS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 19, 1781.

Sir: I have been honord with your Excellency's Favr of the 14th instant.

[32] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.
[33] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

Inclosed you will find an Extract of a Letter I have just received from Genl Sullivan at Phila; the information it contains is of such Nature that I have thot it of Importance to communicate to your Excellency, and altho it is not official, yet I have too much Reason, from concurrent Circumstances, to suppose it may be true. If any further Intelligence shall ascertain the Arrival of this Reinforcement, I shall do myself the Honor to communicate the same to you. Your letter to the Chevalr Le Luzerne, shall be forwarded with all possible Care and Dispatch. I have the Honor etc.[34]

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 20, 1781.

Dear Sir: By the Resolution of Congress of the 13th of June the Corps of Invalids is ordered to compose a Part of the Garrison of West Point, and I have now given Direction for the whole of it to repair thither accordingly. The Order for the three Companies at Boston, I have thot proper to enclose to you, that you might facilitate and hasten their Movement, and see that all of the Men who are capable of marching are sent on under their Officers, as soon as the necessary Preparations can be made. I have further to request, that you will take the trouble to enquire into the State of these Companies respecting Cloathing &c. and give an Order on the public Stores for such Articles as are actually wanting to make them comfortable and decent; which the Clothiers are to furnish so far as can be done, without breakg in upon the Cloathing lately imported from Spain. You will be pleased to take such other Measures, as you shall judge expedient for the Transportation of the Baggage and marching of the Men, in such a Manner as that the

[34] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

greatest possible Number of them may be brot without Injury, and as speedily as possible, to the Point of Destination.

In the Arrangement of the Troops for the Campaign, which is just published in Orders, The Right Wing of the Army is reserved for your Command. With great Regard etc.[35]

[MS. H. S.]

To COLONEL SETH WARNER

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 20, 1781.

Sir: Your Letter of the 15th has been delivered to me by Capt Brownson, proposing some Mode of Exchange for sundry officers and Men of your Regiment Prisoners in Canada.

I wrote to Genl Haldimand Commandg Officer in Canada, the 30th of August last, makg sundry Proposals to him for the purpose of Exchange of such Prisoners of War as he might have in his Possession: an Answer to this Letter has never yet been received, so that I am intirely uninformed of the Intentions of Genl Haldimand on this Head, and therefore am at a loss for any Mode by which An Exchange may be accomplished for such Men as are in his Power. Sir Hy Clinton's Command being intirely unconnected with that of Genl Haldimand, no Proposal can be made to Sir Henry on this Score; nor indeed was the Case other than it is, would it be in my Power to fulfil your Wishes; as I have not at present any Officers Prisoners of War on Hand, in this Quarter, and the Prisoners in the Southern Department, by a Cartel agreed upon between the Commanders of those two Armies, are to be exchanged against each other there.

In these Circumstances it is not in my Power to make a Compliance to your Request; but as soon as I have any Return from Genl Haldimand complying to the proposals made to

[35] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

him, or in any other Way, I shall be very glad to be instrumental to the Relief of those unhappy Persons who are Prisoners of War in Canada. I am &c.[36]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor,
Wednesday, June 20, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

The Regimental Surgeons are to have all their Sick that are not able to move with the Troops removed to the Hospital at Robinson's house except the Small Pox patients who are to be removed to the small pox Hospital in the rear of the New Hampshire huts; in removing the latter particular care should be taken that they have no communication with the rest of the Army.

Two men from the Massachusetts line, one from Connecticut and one from the Hampshire lines, such as are least fit for Field duty (recruits in preference) to be sent to Doctor Craick for the purpose of assisting the flying hospital when these lines move.

To THE OFFICER COMMANDING THE DETACHMENT OF INVALIDS[37]

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 20, 1781.

Sir: You will as soon as possible, after the receipt of this Letter march the Detachment of the Corps of Invalids now at Boston, to the Garrison of West Point, where the whole Corps is to be assembled by the Resolution of Congress of the 13th. Inst.

[36] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

You will consult Major General Heath and receive his Orders respecting the Movement; he will also give you such assistance in procuring the Articles of Cloathing and Transportation as he shall judge necessary.

I have only to add that you will please to move this body of Veterans, by easy Marches, in such a Manner as to bring the greatest number possible of them to the Garrison of West Point. You will advise me of the time when you march from Boston, and when you may be expected at the Army, and also the Number of Men, which may actually be depended upon to reinforce the Garrison. I am &c.[38]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor,
Thursday, June 21, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

The Honorable the Congress have been pleased to pass the following Resolves:

By the United States in Congress assembled, June 11th. 1781

Resolved, That the officers of the hospital and medical department, now in service, be allowed the depreciation upon their pay, in the same manner as officers of the line of the army.

June 13, 1781.

Resolved, That it be, and hereby is recommended to the several states, to which the officers of the hospital and medical department now in service, respectively belong, or of which they are or were inhabitants, to settle the accounts of the said officers for depreciation, on the principles established by the resolution of Congress of the 10th of April, 1780; and to make provision for paying the balances that may be found due, in the same manner with officers of the line.

That each State which shall advance more money in making good the depreciation to its respective citizens than its proper proportion, shall be allowed for the same on account of the United States.

[38] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 21, 1781.

Dear Sir: I am favored with yours of this date, inclosing a Note from Mrs. Mortier,[39] to whom a Billet is also forwarded under cover to you, which I request you to transmit to her by the return of the Flag.

You will have the goodness to suffer nothing at all to be landed from the flag, and to give Orders for the departure of it as soon as may be with convenience. You will be pleased to give directions to have the Officer and Men who came with the flag treated with due attention and civility without being suffered to come on shore, on any account whatever. I am etc.

P. S. Be pointed in directing that nothing should be landed.[40]

To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 21, 1781.

Sir: least from your Situation you may not have had an Opportunity to see the General Arrangement of the Army on its takg the field as published in Genl Orders, I have thot proper to give you this particular Information. That upon the Troops taking their Position in the Field, which is now beginning to be done, you are assigned to take the Command at West Point, to which Post it may be well for you to repair as soon as may be, at least by To-morrow, that you may be able to make your Arrangements as you shall think proper. At the same Time I have to inform you, that this is not designed as a permanent

[39] Mrs. Martha Mortier. She was the widow of a paymaster in the British Army.

[40] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

Washington wrote again to Howe (June 22) directing that "the Artificers you mention that have been drafted from the several Regiments will continue at the Point 'till further orders." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

Command assigned to you; but that on the taking Place of active and Offensive operations you will be called to a Command in the Field. I am &c.[41]

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 21, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have received your favor of last Night. The Measures which have been taken in consequence of the information appear to me, to have been very proper.

When our Officers on the Lines are thus apprised, should the Enemy presume to make an incursion,[42] I cannot but flatter myself they will be made to suffer for their temerity. I am etc.[43]

To COLONEL LEWIS NICOLA

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 21, 1781.

Sir: In consequence of the Resolution of Congress of the 13th of June, I have to request that you will march the Corps of Invalids under your Command to the Garrison at West Point.

It is almost unnecessary to inform you, that it is my earnest wish the greatest attention should be paid to the convenience and accommodation of this body of Veterans, both on their march and in quarters, and that the greatest possible number of them should be brought on by easy Marches to the point of destination, as soon as the circumstances will admit. Orders of a similar nature have already been sent to the Detachment of the Corps now in Boston.

You must be sensible, Sir, the exigencies of the service require that every Man capable of doing Garrison duty should be marched to West Point or the Order would not have been

[41] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.
[42] The British were suspected of intending an attack on General Waterbury.
[43] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

given. The pleasant and healthy situation of the Garrison, which is remarkable for the salubrity of its air; the accommodations of a stationary Post; and the importance of trusting its defence to a body of tried Men, all point out very forcibly the propriety of employing your Corps as a part of the Garrison.

You will be pleased to inform me as soon as possible, when you will march, when you may be expected to arrive, and what number of Men may be depended upon. I am etc.[44]

To ABRAHAM SKINNER

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 21, 1781.

Sir: The Board of War having transmitted me a Copy of Mr. Loring's application to you to obtain permission for Lt. Colo. Hill's[45] going into New York on parole, I have given my consent for that purpose; and as Lt. Colo. Hill is now on his rout from the Southward, you'll improve the earliest opportunity of conveying him this intelligence. I am etc.[46]

To FRANCISCO RENDON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 21, 1781.

Sir: I with the greatest pleasure congratulate you on the success of His Catholic Majesty's Arms at Pensacola, and I have no doubt but a recital of the particulars will reflect much honor upon General Don Galvez and the troops under his command.

No material movements on the part of the enemy having taken place in this quarter since my last I have no communications of any importance to make to you. I beg you to be assured that I am etc.[47]

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[44] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.
[45] Lieut. Col. John Hill, of the Ninth Foot, British Army.
[46] The draft is in the writing of David Cobb.
[47] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 21, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have just received a Letter from Brigadr Genl Clinton of the 15th. inclosing the examination of two Prisoners who were taken lately by one of his scouts; from whence it appears the Enemy in Canada have not made any movements in force, or preparations for an incursion; and indeed this intelligence corresponds so exactly with that, which has been received thro other channels, that I can not but regret having sent the Reinforcement to the Northward, at a time when the aid of every Man was so essential to the success of the operations in contemplation.

As it will be indespensably necessary, when we advance towards the Enemy's Lines, to withdraw the regular force from the Northward, I have thought proper to advise General Clinton and Your Excellency of it, that provision might be made as far as practicable, to replace these Troops with the Men engaged for the Campaign and the three Years service. At the same time that I express my unhappiness at being forced to the measure, and assure your Excellency, that nothing but necessity could induce me to recall the Continental Troops, I wish it may be understood, that When the Moment of operating arrives, there is not any consideration which can persuade me to counteract the plan that has been concerted between the Count de Rochambeau and myself. But, lest the Enemy should attempt to take advantage of their absence to make inroads on the frontier in order to distract our attention, and cause a diversion in favor of their Most important Post, I beg leave to recommend in the strongest terms, that every means in your pow'r should be made use of to guard against such an event. I will also take the liberty to suggest, whether an additional

security might not be afforded to those Posts which are exposed to the ravages of the Enemy, by my sending a Continental Officer to assist in rousing and assembling the force of the Country and to put himself at the head of such Militia and Volunteers as might be drawn together on an emergency from the district of Country called Vermont; and whether in that case, Brigadier General Stark would not be a proper Character to employ on this service, especially as he has already obtained a reputation from his successes in that quarter, as he is undoubtedly a Man of bravery and has been accustomed to command irregular Troops in action. It appears to me a popular Officer, in that situation would be extremely advantageous on many accounts. Whether there may be reasons of state against it, I know not, I have therefore submitted it to your consideration. [I beg your opinion freely on the subject] and have the honor to be etc.[48]

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 21, 1781.

Gentn: I have been honored with your favors of the 4th. 5th. and 7th. instants. My desire of making myself fully acquainted with the important subject of the last has prevented my answering it before this time. The principle in which you proceeded, of estimating the number of Rations, by the full complement of the Continental Battalions and Corps was certainly the only true one, and I find that your allowance for the Northern Army will afford a supply for Fort Pitt and the posts in Pennsylvania, altho' the troops garrisoning them belong in general to the Corps composing the southern Army.

[48] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The phrase in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

I have therefore included them in the following estimate, which is as accurate a one as I can at present form.

	Rations pr day
Fort Pitt	500
Carlisle	250
Wyoming	150
Philada. If any considerable number of prisoners are to be kept in Philada. the Board will direct a suitable addition to be made to the daily issues and deduct it from the total	500
Rhode Island: for Militia stipulated to be kept up there while the French Army is absent	1500
Boston	250
Springfield	150
Guards kept up in Province of Maine at Continental Expence	750
Albany: for Troops Indians and Canadian families in Northern department	2000
	6050
	184
	24200
	48400
	6050
	1,113,200
The remainder for the Northern Army being 23357 Rations pr day to be delivered at any place upon the North River from New Windsor downwards as the Commdr. in Chief may direct	4,297,688
	5,410,888

I have, in making the foregoing calculation, supposed that our whole force in the field will be employed for the succeeding six Months upon the North River, and have therefore

directed all the provision, except what is necessary for the Garrisons and posts pointed out, to be drawn to that point. This cannot possibly occasion much needless transportation in the Article of Meat, which coming almost generally from the Eastward will be so far upon its way should our operations shift to the southward. It may occasion some difficulty in regard to Flour, but it may be considered, that as the whole of that Article will not be drawn together at once, The Contractor may have sufficient notice to stop sending it this way from Pennsylvania and Jersey should a change of our circumstances or the dispositions of the enemy render it necessary to transfer the weight of the War to the southward. Of the Rations of Meat one fourth part if possible should be salt, and that pork, it keeps better, goes farther, is more healthy and is much more agreeable to the troops than Beef.

I could wish that the very essential Article of Vinegar might be added to the Ration. Its uses in an Army are too well known to need reciting. Two quarts to every hundred Rations will be sufficient. And I observe that no provision is made for Salt, of which a considerable quantity is necessary for the use of the Men and for repacking salted provisions. If the Contractor is expected to furnish it, two quarts to every hundred Rations will likewise be the proportion. If the public undertake to purchase or import it. They may be governed by that estimate.

I do not know whether it will lay with the Board to form the intended Contract. But upon a supposition that it may, I take the liberty to mention a few hints which have been suggested by the Commy. General of Issues, and which seem founded upon the experience which he has had of impositions upon the public, for want of proper guards. The quality of the Rum

is not specified. From the allowed price, it can not be of the best nor ought it to be of the worst kind; we suppose it may be offered in the following proportions: 1/5 spirits, 2/5 West India, 2/5 good Country Rum to be of sufficient proof and gauged when delivered at the Magazines.

The fresh Meat to be delivered at the Weight when killed. The public now lose an immensity by taking live Cattle at estimated weights from the States, and it should be clearly understood that the public are to have the Hides and Tallow. To avoid all disputes as to weight, measure or quality, the Contractor should have an Agent with the Army and at the several posts to take proper receipts from the Commissary. The propriety of appointing an Inspector of provision, to prevent disputes between the Contractor and Commissary, is submitted.

I observe that the Estimate which has been transmitted is limited to the present year, consequently we must suppose that all the provision therein specified will be consumed within that term. Now if a new Contract should not be entered into time enough to enable the Contractor to lay in Magazines for the ensuing Winter and Spring, before the obstructions by Ice and bad weather take place, we shall be reduced to the same distresses and inconveniences which we have experienced for several Winters past. There is another essential reason for making the Contracts for the next year as soon as possible, it is to enable the Contractor to lay himself out for salted provision, which he cannot obtain in sufficient quantities except the people have previous notice to put up Hogs and Cattle for salting. It is true that a considerable quantity, and that of the first quality, is often to be purchased out of prize Cargoes, but that is a precarious dependance.

I must refer you wholly to General Greene for the most advisable manner of supplying the Southern Army. From my Idea of that matter, it will be impossible with any degree of safety to form Magazines of any consequence, while the enemy have the Command of the Water and a decisive superiority by land. But General Greene has now become so well acquainted with the Country, and is so competent a judge of the measures which it will be right to pursue, that you cannot receive so good information as from him.

I shall give directions to permit Lt. Colo. Hill to go into New York upon parole.

I am informed that the Cloathing sent from hence for the southern Army was still in Philada. upon the 13th. As those troops must be in the utmost distress for want of it, I beg that every exertion may be made to send it forward.

By the inclosed Return it appears that Lieutenants Bull,[49] Pemberton[50] and Meeker[51] and Ensign Reed[52] were intitled to promotion some time before the reform of Spencer's Regt. and that they ought, consequently, to be borne upon the half pay list agreeable to the Ranks specified therein. The promotions in the other reformed Regiments were filled up previous to their dissolution and the Gentlemen in question are intitled to the same justice. I have the honor etc.

P. S. The Estimate for the daily issues at Fort Pitt having been thought too low, you will be pleased to add 250 Rations pr diem. Let me entreat the attention of the Board to the supply of the Ordnance Stores lately requested by Genl. Knox.[53]

[49] Lieut. William Bull, of Spencer's Additional Continental regiment. He had been promoted in January, 1780, and retired in January, 1781.

[50] Lieut. Robert Pemberton of Forman's Additional Continental regiment. He had been promoted in January, 1780, and retired in January, 1781.

[51] Lieut. Uzial Meeker, of Spencer's Additional Continental regiment. He had been promoted in January, 1780, and retired in January, 1781.

[52] Ensign John Reed. He had been promoted to lieutenant in February, 1779, and served to April, 1783.

[53] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 21, 1781.

Sir: I have the Honor to acknowledge the Receipt of your Excellencys Favor of the 15th. of this Month, with its several Enclosures.

By Dispatches from the Count De Rochambeau, dated Providence the 15th instt. I am informed, that he would leave that Place on the 18th. with the first Regiment of his Troops, and that the others would follow by Regiments on the next succeedg Days, untill the whole would be on their march, expecting to reach the North River with the first Regiment in 14 Days from the Time of leaving Providence.

The few Troops which I have in this Vicinity, under my imediate Command, are on the Point of taking the Field; their first Collection will be formed at Peekskill, where an Encampment is marked out, and the Troops are beginning to file off this Day to take their Position on that Ground; at or near which I have an Expectation of formg. our Junction with the Count De Rochambeau and his Troops.

I am sorry to inform Your Excellency, that notwithstandg. my earnest Applications to the several States from N Hampshire to N Jersey, I am at this Time uninformed, how far I am to rely on their Aid and Exertions in Support of the concerted Operations of the opening Campaign. I have the Honor etc.[54]

*To MRS. MARTHA MORTIER

Head Qrs., June 21, 1781.

General Washington presents his compliments to Mrs. Mortier and thanks her for her very polite attention to Mrs. Washington, who has so perfectly recovered, as to be able to set out

[54] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

for Virgina. in a day or two. This being the case, General Washington hopes Mrs. Mortier will excuse his returning the several articles which she in [*sic*] so kind a manner sent up by a Flag, assuring her at the sametime that he shall ever entertain a grateful sense of this mark of her benevolence.[55] [C.L.]

*To JOHN R. STAFFORD[56]

New Windsor, June 22, 1781.

Sir: I beg you to present my respectful compliments, and warmest wishes to the Brethren of the lodge I have the honor of giving a name to, and assure them that I will with great pleasure attend the celebration of the festival of St. John on Monday next at Peeks-kill if it shall happen to be in my power to get from hence by that time but from present appearances I almost despair of it. The causes however wch. may prevent it being contingent I will attend if I can, and shall depend upon you for an apology to the Brethren of the lodge if I am not there. I am etc.

To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 22, 1781.

Sir: On your taking the Command of West point, I wish your attention to the following particulars. Visit the Redoubts twice or thrice a week at uncertain periods. call the Roles regularly, and every Man to be present or satisfactorily accounted for. the Redoubts to be kept perfectly clean and sweet. no officer to be absent without your leave; nor any Soldier without leave from a Field officer. ten days Wood, Water and provi-

[55] Mrs. Mortier's note of June 15 is in the *Washington Papers*. The articles sent were a box of lemons, 1 of oranges, 4 boxes of sweetmeats, 1 keg of tarmarinds, 200 limes, 2 dozen capillaire, 2 dozen orgeat, 2 dozen pineapples, and 2 pounds of fine Hyson tea.

[56] Secretary of Masonic Washington Lodge, No. 10, and ensign and adjutant of the Third Massachusetts Regiment. He served to November, 1783.

sions to be deposited in each Redoubt; the Garrison to sleep within them, and to keep at least, two Senteries upon the parapet. the upper Barracks to be clean'd out and kept for Hospitals, and particular attention will be paid to prevent damage being done either to Barracks or Houses. if there shou'd be provisions in any of the public Magazines, it must be frequently inspected; and the safety of the Magazines of Military Stores will require your particular attention. I shall furnish you with a detail of the number of Men, that I think wou'd be necessary for the defence of each Work; but I wish it not to influence you so far as to prevent your increasing or diminishing the number whenever you think necessary. I am etc.[57]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, Friday, June 22, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

Twelve men from the Garrison ordered for Westpoint to be sent immediately to the Waggon master General's for the purpose of driving Waggons; and four men to the Commissary of Hides to assist him in collecting and preserving the Hides and Tallow; as it is likely those men will continue on the duty they are now ordered for, the present Campaign they are to be taken from the recruits lately joined and such as are least calculated for Field or Garrison duty.

To CAPTAIN-LIEUTENANT JACOB KEMPER[58]

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 22, 1781.

Sir: You will proceed to Sussex County, agreeable to the orders which will be given to you by General Knox to endeavour

[57] In the writing of David Cobb. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

[58] Of the Third Continental Artillery. He served to June, 1783.

to procure 12 Barrels of Oil. If the owners of that Article will not accept the terms of payment which the Quarter Masr. General will authorize you to make, you are hereby directed to seize the above mentioned Quantity and bring it with you to the park. If you are under the necessity of making a seizure, you will give Receipts for the Quantity. I am etc.[59]

To MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR ST. CLAIR

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 23, 1781.

Sir: Yesterday I received your Favor of the 16th instant. I am much Obliged by your Care and Attention for the Public Service and at the same Time lament the small Probability of Success which you have Reason to expect from the Disposition of the Assembly of Pensylvania; some Favorable Circumstance, or some adverse Fortune, may possibly yet draw forth their Exertions; your Zeal for the Common Cause, I dare say, will induce you to continue your Endeavours for the general Good.

Genl Wayne has given me a similar Return with that you have inclosed to me. I am sorry to observe the Smallness of his Numbers. I hope however they will be soon increased.

Of the Military Stores you mention to have been left at York Town, you will be pleased to Order such as want Repairs, to be sent to the Laboratory at Carlisle, to be immediately put into a State fit for Use; those which are in Order, may rest at York Town, and be Delivered for the Use of the next Troops which may rendezvous at that Place.

It appears somewhat strange to me that our Accounts of the Operations in Virginia, are so vague and uncertain; equally

[59] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

unaccountable seem to me to be the Designs of Ld Cornwallis, from his rapid and devious Movements. It appears by his latter Conduct that the Effect of all his Operations in South and North Carolina are totally lost, and the Enemy are like again to be reduced to the possession only of Charlestown.

The Time of your joining the Army, must depend on the Exertions of the State in furnishing such number of Troops in their Line, as shall give you a suitable Command in the Field; as soon as this shall be the Case, I shall wish you to go on without Delay.

I am sorry to hear the ill State of Health of Mrs St Clair. I have the Pleasure to inform that Mrs Washington is in a fair Way of Recovery.

The Army in this Quarter are now takg the Field; their first Point of Encampment is at Peekskill, where we expect to be joined by the Count De Rochambea, with his Troops, which are on their march from R Island.

I have wrote Genl Irvine on the Subject of his Proposal. I am etc.[60]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, Saturday, June 23, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

The Commander in Chief is pleased to direct that in future the Musters of all the Troops as well of the Corps detached from the Main Army, as of those serving under his immediate command, be taken on the first day of every Month or as soon after as Circumstances will possibly admit in order that the Monthly Abstracts and Returns required of the Inspectors may comprehend every alteration that has taken place in the course of the preceding month.

[60] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

He expects that the returns of arms, accoutrements, ammunition, camp-equipage and cloathing will shew the exact quantity of these several articles on hand at the time of making the last Return. What has been since received, and what remains on hand accounting in the most precise manner for all deficiencies and intermediate alterations. The Return of provisions drawn between the musters should agree with the Muster rolls. To obviate the difficulties that might otherwise arise, the Arms Accoutrements Ammunition cloathing and Camp Equipage in the possession of men on command are to be returned in the same state they were in when the men left their corps, untill by their return, or by official information they are found to be otherwise.

Officers commanding regiments and companies are charged with the Arms, Accoutrements, Ammunition, camp-equipage and cloathing issued to the men under their respective commands and may be assured that every article that is not satisfactorily accounted for will be charged to their private accompt.

As officers having the command of detached parties are to be accountable to the commanding officer of the Corps to which the men respectively belong for all losses of Arms, Ammunition, accoutrements, cloathing or Camp equipage in possession of the men at the time of their taking command; it is recommended to them to take exact lists of the above articles previous to their march.

The General desires that officers commanding brigades and detached corps oblige their issuing Commissaries to make weekly Returns of the issues to their several commands which they are carefully to compare with the weekly returns of the troops and correct any abuse they discover and he strongly recommends it to all officers scrupulously to examine Returns before they make themselves accountable for their exactness by signing them.

To THOMAS LOWRY[61]

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 23, 1781.

Sir: I had yesterday the pleasure of receiving your favr. of the 16th. In forwarding the Flour which you have purchased by order of Mr. Morris[62] you will be pleased to consult the convenience of transportation to the North River, for when we have once got to the Water, it is of little consequence whether it be above or below the Highlands. I think the best general Rule will be to send all from the South side of the Mountain to King's ferry and all from the North to Newburg or New Windsor.

I do not know what may be the extent of your Commission, but I judge from some expressions in your letter that it exceeds one thousand Barrels; and as you desire me to inform you whether we shall probably want more at present than that quantity, I must assure you, that I see little dependance upon any other kind of supply; You will therefore be pleased to forward as much as you possibly can consistent with your orders.

Be kind enough to make my Compliments to Mrs. Lowrey to whose Civilities both Mrs. Washington and myself are much indebted. I am. etc.[63]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM IRVINE

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 23, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have just been favored with your Letter of the 14th. Inst. I can easily conceive the inexpressible disappoint-

[61] Commissary General of Issues of the Continental Army.
[62] Robert Morris, Superintendent of Finance of the Continental Congress.
[63] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

ment and mortification you have suffered, upon finding the flattering prospects of filling your Line so unexpectedly blasted, by the anxious sensations I have experienced on the same subject. If what has been so often urged, and repeated will not excite the States to the most strenuous exertions in compleating the Continental Battalions I almost despair of success from any thing that I can add to my former representations, Arguments, and entreaties. This however should not relax our unremitting endeavours to serve our Country, to the extent of our abilities, in every possible Way.

The desire you express for active service is very commendable. I beg you will be persuaded that I have not the least inclination to restrain so laudable a passion. You will therefore be at liberty, to attempt to rouse the spirit of the Country and to put yourself at the head of the Cavalry in the Manner you propose; I sincerely wish your efforts may be crowned with success. If the State has not already appointed a General Officer to command the State Troops destined for the southern service, I could wish these Troops might also be put under your Orders. Possibly, it might be well to give an Offer of your services, and to intimate that you have my consent to accept this Command, if the State should think proper to confer it upon you. I am &c.[64] [H. S. P.]

To MAJOR BENJAMIN TALLMADGE

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 24, 1781.

Sir: I have duly received your Favor of the 19th. instant with its Inclosure.

Be so good as to write me pr. the Chain of Expresses immediately on the Receipt of this, and inform when the Count

[64] In the writing of David Humphreys.

de Rochambeau leaves Hartford; by what Rout he intends to come on and when he may be expected at my Head Quarters, which he will find at Peekskill. I am etc.[65]

To PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 24, 1781.

Dear Sir: In the course of our expected operations we shall stand in need of a species of troops, which are not at present to be procured either in this Army or in any of the States to the Northward of Pennsylvania. They are expert Rifle Men. The use of these Men will be to fire into the embrazures and to drive the enemy from their parapets when our approaches are carried very near their Works. Without this can be done, our loss will be immense when we shall come within Musket Shot. General Lincoln informs me that the enemy made use of this mode at the Siege of Charlestown, and that his Batteries were in a manner silenced, untill he opposed the same kind of troops and made it as dangerous for the enemy to shew their Men as it had been before for him to expose his. The number which we shall want will be about three hundred, and I shall be exceedingly obliged to your Excellency, if you will endeavour to procure so many from the Frontier of Pennsylvania.

Had the quota of Militia from your State come to this Army, I should have endeavoured to have selected the required number from among them. But that not being the case, I think it but reasonable, that the expence of raising the Rifle Men should be Continental. I have written to this effect to Congress and have requested the president to signify their approbation to your Excellency if they think proper to accede to it.

[65] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

I would wish the Corps to be formed into six Companies of 50 each, under the command of a Captain and two subs, the whole to be commanded by a Major. The term of service to the 1st. day of January next. The choice of the Officers I shall leave to your Excellency. If Major Parr formerly of the 7th. Penna. Regt. would engage in such a service, a better Officer could not be found for the purpose. The Bounty cannot now be determined, and therefore it will be with you to procure them on as low terms as possible. But that the business may not be retarded for want of proper encouragement, I would wish you to make yourself acquainted with the Sum which will most probably engage them and offer that, whatever it may be. One of the terms should be that they are to find their own Rifles, as we have none in Store. I shall be glad to hear as soon as possible what probability there will be of succeeding in this undertaking. The greater part of the Men, must be with the Army by the 1st. of Augt. or their services will be useless afterwards. I have the honor etc.[66]

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 24, 1781.

Sir: I do myself the Honor to acknowledge the Receipt of your Excellency's Letter of the 20th instant, from which I have the Pleasure to observe the progress you make in the march of the Troops under your Command, and your Intention to come on to my Camp in Person, from Hartford. Be assured, Sir, I shall be very happy to see you whenever you arrive. You do not mention the Rout by which you shall come on; you will find me at Peekskill.

In mine of the 19th. instant directed to your Excellency I informed you of the Intelligence I had received of the Arrival

[66] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

of a large Reinforcement from England, at Chesapeak Bay. I have very good Reason now to believe that Information not to have been well founded; having since received Letters from Congress, and others of much later Date, in which nothing of this kind has been mentioned.

My Intelligence from the Southward is too vague and uncertain to communicate to your Excellency. By the Time of your Arrival, I hope to be able to give you some certain Information of our Situation in that Quarter. I have the Honor etc.[67]

To COMTE DE BARRAS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 24, 1781.

Sir: The information, I had the honor of communicating to your Excellency in my last Letter, as an extract from Genl. Sullivan's Letter, respecting the arrival of a large Fleet of Transports to Chesapeak Bay, is I believe entirely without foundation. My intelligence of the Enemies operations in Virginia is so vague and uncertain that I am not able to give your Excellency any particular information of their movements. I have the honor etc.

P. S. I have advices from N York that Arbuthnot is at the Hook with 7 sail of the Line.[68]

To COLONEL CHARLES PETTIT

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 24, 1781.

Sir: Since writing you last, I have very luckily found the Books I had supposed to be lost. I shall not therefore want those which I desired you to procure. as the Work however

[67] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[68] The draft is in the writing of David Cobb; the P. S. is in that of David Humphreys.

may possibly be begun, you will be pleased to receive and forward to me, so many as may be already finished, and stop the execution of the Remainder as soon as may be. I am etc.[69]

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 24, 1781.

Dear Sir: I am honored with Your Excellency's Letter of the 30th Inst. together with the several Enclosures.

The measures which have been taken by your Legislature to produce a prompt compliance with the requisitions upon the State, are of a good complexion, and afford me great satisfaction. I flatter myself the ample powers with which your Excellency and your Council are invested, will be strenuously exerted to carry those salutary Measures into execution.

I shall be extremely happy to see you at the Army, and am With the highest sentiments of esteem etc.[70]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 24, 1781.

Sir: Towards effecting the intended Operations of the ensuing Campaign, I had made a Requisition to the State of Pensylvania for a Number of Militia to join the Army under my imediate Command; but that state having been called upon at the same Time by Congress, for a Number of their Militia for the southern Service, His Excellency the President has informed me that it will not be in their Power to fulfill both Requisitions. I have therefore withdrawn my Request.

[69] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[70] In the writing of David Humphreys. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

In the Course of our intended Operations, I shall have Occasion for a Body of about three Hundred expert Rifle Men, for most necessary and essential Services, and as all those of our Troops, composing the Line of the Army, from whence I could hope to draw such a Corps, are gone southward, so that is become impracticable to supply them here. I have written to his Excellency President Reed, begging that he will furnish me with such a Body of Troops from that State to serve with this Army during this Campaign. If Congress should approve the Measure, I have to request, that they will be pleased to signify their Approbation to Mr. President Reed, and enforce this Requisition; accompanying it with a Promise of Prepayment to the State of whatever Bounty they shall engage, with Pay, Rations and compleat Continental Establishment, equal to the other Troops in the Field, during the Time they are in Service, this measure I deem necessary, because I suppose they cannot be raised as Militia. A Corps of Men composed of such expert Marksmen, being in my Opinion, of so very great Importance in the Execution of our Intensions, I have the most sanguine Hope, that this Requisition will meet with a most speedy Success. I have the Honor etc.[71]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, Sunday, June 24, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

Lieutenant Bradford of Colonel Lamb's regiment of Artillery is Appointed Aid de camp to Major General Lord Stirling and is to be respected and obeyed accordingly.

[71] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The letter was read in Congress on July 2, 1781.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN FELLOWS

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 25, 1781.

Sir: Having Occasion to withdraw from Albany and other posts in the Northern District all the Continental Troops that are now there; I find myself under the necessity to replace them out of the Quota of Militia requested from the State of Massachusetts to the Number of Six Hundred; to be taken from the Counties most contiguous. I have therefore to request that you will be pleased to order the Militia of the County of Berkshire to the Number of Six Hundred; to Rendezvous at Albany; and if that County should not in the proportion assigned to them, amount to the Number I have mentioned; I must beg that you will be pleased to extend your orders (if in your Power) to the County of Hampshire untill you compleat the whole; but in case your command does not reach there, be pleased to communicate this Request to the Officer commandg the Militia in that County and Desire him to fulfill the Number. This Requisition has been communicated to Govr Hancock; but to save Time and to have the Militia in forwardness to move on as soon as possible, I have thot proper to make my Address directly to you, without waitg his Excellencys Orders. I am etc.[72]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 25, 1781.

Dear Sir: In a conference this day with the Governor, the Lieut. Governor; Genl. Schuyler and Genl. Ten Brock it has been determined that the Continental Regiments shall be withdrawn from the Northward as soon as a suitable number

[72] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

of Militia shall be sent in to relieve them. I have in consequence directed 600 Men from the Counties of Hampshire and Berkshire to rendezvous at Albany. As they arrive you will dispose of them in the following proportions, 2/3 to Saratoga and 1/3 to the Mohawk River to be under the command of Colo. Willet. I have written to General Starke to repair immediately to Albany and to relieve you. You will therefore as I have before directed hold all the Continental Troops (the Artillery excepted) in the most perfect readiness to move whenever the Militia come in, and should General Starke have arrived by that time, you will come down yourself with the troops. If he should not, you will forward the troops and wait his arrival.

It is not my wish at present to draw off the regular troops untill the Militia have come in, but circumstances may render it necessary. You will therefore keep them ready to move at a moments warning.

The inclosed for General Fellows requests him to send in the Militia, You will therefore forward it to him with the greatest dispatch. I am etc.[73]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN STARK

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 25, 1781.

Dear Sir: Upon finding it necessary for the operations of the Campaign, to recall the Continental Troops from the Northward, I have ordered 600 Militia from the Counties of Berkshire and Hampshire to that quarter, in addition to the Militia and State Troops of New York; and I have now to request that you will take the general Command of all the Troops in that Department, as soon as conveniently may be; I am

[73] In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

induced to appoint you to this Command, from your knowledge of, and influence amongst the Inhabitants of that Country.

You will be pleased therefore to repair to Saratoga, and establish your Head Quarters at that place, detaining with you 400 of the Troops from Massachusetts, and sending the other 200 to Colonel Willet, who will remain in command on the Mohawk River, as his popularity in that Country will enable him to render essential services there.

In case of an incursion of the Enemy you will make such dispositions as you shall judge most advantageous for opposing them and protecting the frontier (not withdrawing the Troops from the Mowhawk River). I rely upon it, you will use your utmost exertions to draw forth the force of the Country from the Green Mountains and all the contiguous territory; and I doubt not your requisitions will be attended with success, as your personal influence must be unlimited amongst those people, at whose head, you have formerly fought and conquered with so much reputation and glory.

I request you will be very particular in keeping up proper discipline and preventing the Troops from committing depredations upon the Inhabitants.

Be pleased to let me hear from you from time to time, and to believe me to be etc.[74] [N.H.H.S.]

To GARRET H. VAN WAGENEN[75]

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 25, 1781.

Sir: You are to apply to His Excellency Govr. Clinton, who will order a Guard of an Officer and twenty Men from the Militia of Ulster County to attend at Newburg to receive the

[74] In the writing of David Humphreys.
[75] Deputy Commissary General of Prisoners.

prisoners of War at present at Fishkill and conduct them to Easton in Pennsylvania. You will direct the Officer to apply at that place for a Continental Guard to escort them to Lancaster, if there are any Continental troops there. If there are not, he is to apply to the nearest Officer of Militia. You will send off the prisoners from Fishkill as soon as possible. I am &c.[76]

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 25, 1781.

Sir: As an attempt is determined on to reduce New York to our power, I am under the necessity of calling on your State for an aid of Militia, especially as I cannot dispense with recalling the regular Troops now on the Frontiers, wishing to ease a state so harrassed as yours has been as much as possible consistent with the importance of the intended operation, I can only request 800 men. But as on some critical emergency I may be driven to intreat a farther aid permit me to recommend It to Your Excellency to request of Your legislature, to invest you with adequate powers for the purpose should You not already have them. I am &c.[77]

To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 25, 1781.

Sir: I find I shall be under the necessity of drawing down all the Continental troops which are at present upon the Northern Frontier, and as there is very great reason to apprehend an incursion of the enemy from Canada I shall be obliged to keep a respectacle force of Militia in that quarter, in addition

[76] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[77] From a copy in the writing of Philip Schuyler.

to the State Troops of New York. I have therefore taken the liberty to order the quotas from Berkshire and Hampshire Counties immediately to Albany where they will be disposed of agreeable to the directions of Brigadier Genl. Stark who will take the general command to the Northward. The numbers of Massachusetts Militia destined for Northern service will be 600. If therefore the two before mentioned Counties should not furnish so many, I must make up the deficiency from the others.

The Militia which will be furnished by New York upon the present occasion will be principally drawn from the lower parts and from their perfect knowledge of the Country which will be the scene of our operations will be particularly useful to me. I have for that reason preferred keeping them with the Army to sending them to the defence of their own Frontier. I have the honor etc.[78]

*To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

New Windsor, June 25, 1781.

Dr. Sir: One of my own Horses which I sent from Camp to be Wintered, together with the Horses which usually carried my Canteens and Portmanteaus, I am informed, are dead. These losses will occasion a call upon you for four, wch. I should be glad to receive as soon as convenient. If there is a number to choose out of, two may be natural pacers (Horses or Mares) the Canteens going easier on them. One of the other two is only to go to the length of Phila. with Mrs. Washington, one of whose Carriage Horses is, I fear, too lame to perform the Journey. To supply his place, a bay, tolerably likely, and used to drawing, would be prefered. If I could get

[78] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

this Horse to day so as to enable Mrs. Washington to leave this in the Morning I could wait a few days for the others. I am etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

To MAJOR GENERAL SAMUEL HOLDEN PARSONS

Head Quarters, Peekskill, June 27, 1781.

Sir: I have received your Favor of yesterday's Date, and am very sorry to observe its Contents. I can think of no mode more eligible, than to transmit the Letter, with some Observations on the probable Consequences, to the State of Connecticut. This mode I shall pursue, and hope the State, on further Consideration, will do all the justice to their Line, that they have a Right to expect. I am etc.[79]

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Camp near Peekskill, June 27, 1781.

Sir: I have had the honor of receiving your Excellencys favor of the 23rd. Inst. from Hartford. It would have given me the greatest pleasure could I have made it convenient to have met you at Newtown, but independant of many arrangements which are necessary at the first taking the Field, I am detained by the hourly expection of His Excellency the Chevr. de la Luzerne.

I am pleased to find that your Excellency's Idea of the position which will be proper for the troops under your command coincides exactly with my own, and I shall be happy in giving your Quarter Master General every assistance in reconnoitring and marking out your Camp.

You have inclosed the Copy of a piece of intelligence which I have just received from the Minister, and as it is necessary

[79] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

that the Count De Barras should be made acquainted with it, I have transmitted him a Copy also. I flatter myself that the number of which the reinforcement is said to consist is exaggerated.

Lt. Colo. Cobb one of my Aides de Camp will have the honour of delivering you this, and will return to me with any dispatch or message which your Excellency may wish to communicate; or should you rather incline to come forward from Newtown, before the Army, Colonel Cobb will be proud to attend you.

I will be much obliged to your Excellency, to present the Count De Barras, by the next Occasion you may have to write him, with my sincere Thanks, for the Readiness with which he was pleased to embrace the Proposition I had the Honor to make to him through your Excellency. I am &c.[80]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Peekskill, Wednesday, June 27, 1781.

Parole New York. Countersigns Bedford, Tappan.

For the day tomorrow	Major General Lord Stirling
	Colonel Swift
	Lieutenant Colonel Sprout
	Inspector 1st. Connecticut brigade

The Commander in Chief has the pleasure of announcing to the Army the approach of the troops of his most Christian Majesty under the Command of his Excellency Lieutenant General Count de Rochambeau.

The General assures himself that it would be needless to recommend to the officers and Soldiers of the American Army a cultivation of acquaintance and friendship with our gen-

[80] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman and Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

erous Allies; policy strongly dictates the measure but he hopes they will be influenced by a nobler motive, Gratitude.

To the Officers of all ranks the General recommends the strictest attention to their several duties; to those of the day and on guards he particularly enjoins the most pointed observance of the rules and regulations for the establishment of discipline, Independent of the necessity of the utmost care and circumspection at all times. We shall be more than commonly bound to practise them henceforward. We shall be daily under the Eyes of officers of the first distinction improved by long service, and there is nothing which contributes more to establish military character of a people than a performance of their duties with Alertness precision and uniformity.

A General officer and two field officers of the day are to be appointed to regulate and Visit the Guard, and to superintend the police of the army; They will as soon as may be reconnoitre the environs of the Camp and after examining the approaches to the Army they will determine the positions proper for the Guards and report the same to the Commander in Chief.

Chains of Sentinels are to be regularly established from the several camp guards. No Soldiers are to be suffered to go beyond the limits of their Encampments without passes from the commanding officer of the regiment in writing, every Soldier found straggling without such a written permission is to be apprehended and confined and every officer is most earnestly requested to consider it as a part of his duty to see this order invariably carried into execution.

The General expects the strictest attention will be paid to the preservation of the inclosures and to prevent the destruction of every species of private property.

All Deserters and persons from the enemy's lines are to be sent immediately under a small guard to Head Quarters.

To COMTE DE BARRAS

Camp near Peekskill, June 27, 1781.

Sir: I do myself the honor to transmit your Excellency the Copy of a piece of intelligence which I have just received from the Minister of France. Should I gain any further account of the number of ships of War which convoyed the transports, or of their destination I shall immediately communicate it. I have the honor etc.[81]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Peekskill, Thursday, June 28, 1781.

Parole Army. Countersigns Bakewell, Cookwell.

For the day tomorrow	Major General Lincoln Lieutenant Colonel C. Smith Major Rice. Inspector 2d. Connecticut brigade

The Commanding officers of the Picquets and other guards will be particularly attentive in examining the passes of soldiers and in detaining those respecting whose permissions there is any suspicion of deception untill they can be reported to an officer of the Day.

Country people or transient persons coming to or going from the Army if they cannot give a good account of themselves are to be treated in the same manner without having any insult or outrage offered them.

The Rolls are to be called at least three times a day, the men to be all present or satisfactorily accounted for.

The General presents his Compliments to the General and field officers of the day and expects the pleasure of their

[81] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

company at dinner the day succeeding that on which they are on duty.

In order to save the consumption of forage and to prevent the destruction of the property of Individuals without a compensation, the forage masters are to point out the meadows and pastures which are to be appropriated to the use of the army, none are to be taken up for the public or occupied but in this mode.

The Forage Master General will also take measures to have as great a quantity of Grass cut as is practicable for the purpose of preventing waste and extending the use of forage as far as possible.

The Commissary General of Issues will take effectual measures to procure a supply of Hard bread for the Army.

Untill further orders Picquets will mount daily at the places pointed out by Major General Lord Stirling for the purpose of securing the Avenues to Camp.

For the present the Vacancy left in the Centre of the second line for the Park of Artillery &ca. will be the Grand Parade where the Guards are to Assemble every morning at Eight o'clock.

A Baker from each Brigade will be immediately sent to Colonel Stewart Commissary General at Peekskill Landing.

To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL

Head Quarters, Peekskill, June 28, 1781.

Sir: The Commissary Genl of Issues is directed to take Effectual measures to furnish the Army with a Quantity of Hard Bread. Six Bakers will be given him for the Purpose from here. I wish you to give him every Assistance within your power that he may need to effect this most necessary Work. I am &c.

P. S. I find, unless vigorous measures are taken to draw all the Boats together immediately, we never shall have them in readiness for use when wanted. I have therefore written most pressingly to Major Darby to have all the Batteaux instantly collected at Peekskill.[82]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, Peekskill, June 28, 1781.

Dear Sir: The following is an extract of what I have just received from the Board of War in a letter of the 22d. Inst.

The Board are unhappy to inform you that nothing is yet done in consequence of General Knox's letter: immediately on the receipt of it they made the necessary estimates and applications to Congress for the following Sums: To the department of Military Stores £3794 Specie and for transportation £43,747 Specie but the Money is not yet granted and nothing can be done without it. The Board have been informed that their Estimates were referred to a Committee who were directed to confer with Mr. Morris on the subject.

I am every day more and more dubious of our being able to carry into execution the operation which we have in contemplation, not only from the small prospect of the necessary number of Men, but from an information which I have just received from the Minister of France and which is, that a reinforcement, said to consist of between three and four thousand Men, arrived at Charles town, the beginning of this month. part were landed at Charles town, the remainder were intended for Augustine and New York. You must be sensible that a trifling augmentation of force at the latter place must render our success at least precarious. Under the foregoing circumstances, I am confirmed in what you know has always

[82] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.; the P. S. is in that of David Humphreys.

been my opinion, that it will be wrong to bring more Stores from the Southward than will be absolutely necessary; because, should we be disappointed here, they come so far out of the way. The case is different as to those which came from the Eastward. I have for these reasons, in my answer to the Board of War, desired them to compleat the Estimate at all events if possible, as the Stores will be always valuable, and have referred them to you for directions as to the transportation of such Articles as will be essentially necessary for a commencement of operations; the remainder may either be brought on when we see a certainty of proceeding, may remain where they are if the matter falls through, or may be turned southward should there be occasion. This plan appears to me such an one as does not put a stop to preparations, and yet avoids the great expence, except necessary, transportation. You will therefore, as soon as possible, make out the Returns of what will be first wanted and transmit them to the Board. You see their difficulties and will therefore be pleased to confine them to the essentials. I am &c.

P. S. Be pleased to send down 6 dark Lanthorns and 12°. Rockets[83] by the Bearer.[84] [MS. H.S.]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN STARK

Head Quarters, Peekskill, June 28, 1781.

Sir: On your Arrival to take the Command of the Troops on the Northern Frontier, you will be pleased to advise with General Schuyler with respect to the Disposition of the Troops destined for the Defence of that Quarter; as that Gentlemans Knowledge of every Part of the exposed Country is very good,

[83] 12-ounce rockets.
[84] In the writing of Tench Tilghman.

his Assistance and Council may be very usefull to you, from this Motive I am induced to give you this Direction.

You will also consult with him[85] with respect to furnishing the Means of Subsistence to the Troops under your Command, should you at any Time find the public Stores to be exhausted. With much Regard, etc.[86] [N.H.H.S.]

To COLONEL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, Peekskill, June 28, 1781.

Sir: I was yesterday favored with a letter from you without Date.

Had not the Enemy made the Movement which you mention, I should by this Time have given you directions to have drawn your Brigade towards this River. In present Circumstances, you will be pleased to draw together, as much as possibly you can the whole Brigade (except the Parties in the Clove) to one Point at Morris Town, where you will wait further Orders, and although it will much interfere with my Intentions, yet considering the present irruption of the Enemy into your State, I shall not at this Time withdraw the Troops under your Comand; but expect to have them in Readiness to be ordered to such Point as eventual Circumstances may most Demand.

I have received no official account of the Promotion of Colo Hazen to the Rank of a Brigadier:[87] whoever has informed you of his being recommended by me to that Promotion, with a View to take the Comand of the Troops of N Jersey state, must have been mistaken; to convince you of this, I send you a Copy of my Letter to Congress on the Subject, by Colo

[85] The draft has "You will also take his advice with respect etc."

[86] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[87] On June 29, 1781, Congress conferred the brevet of brigadier general on Colonel Hazen.

Hazen, from which it will appear that nothing of the kind was mentioned.

If the promotion of Colo Hazen has taken place, Congress would seem to contradict their own Principles established by their Resolutions of the 25th of May, in which they have declared the Mode by which Promotions in future were to take place. Agreeable to these Principles Colo Van Schaick stood first in the Class; untill I am informed from Congress, I know not that Colo Hazen is promoted, nor (if he is) can I say from what Motives or on what Principles such Event may have taken place. I am &c.[88]

To CAPTAIN JOHN PRAY

Head Quarters, Peekskill, June 28, 1781.

Sir: Yours of this day has been recd. You will be pleased to send me immediately a state of the Detachment under your Commd. specifying particularly the number of Officers and Men, both in the Garrison and on the Water Guard. I am &c.[89]

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, Peekskill, June 28, 1781.

Sir: By Command of His Excellency I give you the followg Extract from a Letter just received from Genl Schuyler dated Poughkeepsie 25th June 1781.

As our Boards are all of the Lenth of 14 feet, I find they will work to the best Advantage if the Boats are 32 feet instead of 35 feet long, and that each Boat will require 12 lb. of 20d. Nails; 14 lb. of 10d. Nails, and 8 lb. of 8d.

If the Nails and Oakum arrive in Season and the Weather prove favorable, I am in Hopes to compleat the Boats in Twenty Days after

[88] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.
[89] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

my arrival in Albany; as Mr. Cuyler informs me that 150 Carpenters may be procured at 14/. currency pr Day for the Master Carpenters, and 10/ for the others they findg themselves in Rum, Provisions and Tools.

His Excellency being exceedingly anxious for the Completion of the Boats, hopes that no failure may happen on your Part, to produce any the least Delay to the finishg the Number mentioned by Genl Schuyler, in the Time he has sett. I am etc.[90]

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, Peekskill, June 28, 1781.

Dear Sir: Inclosed your Excellency will receive Copy of a Letter addressed to me from General Parsons, representing the Situation of the Troops of your Line of the Army.

I feel myself so distressed at this Representation, not only as it affects the Troops themselves, but from the Apprehension I have of the Consequences which may, from their feelings, be produced to the general Service; that, altho it is not within my Province to interfere with the Internal Resolutions or the Determinations of the States, I did not think it amiss to transmitt this Letter to your Excellency, and to beg the most serious Attention of the State to its Subject.[91] Permit me Sir! to add, that Policy alone in our present Circumstances, seem to demand that every Satisfaction which can reasonably be requested, should be given to those Veteran Troops who, 'thro almost every Distress, have been so long and so faithfully serving the States; as from every Representation, I have but too much Reason to suppose, that the most fatal Consequences to

[90] This letter is in the writing of and is signed by Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[91] At this point in the draft, which is also in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr., the following is crossed out: "the Subject is so fully displayed therein, that it is needless for me to be particular. How far the State have complied to the strict Rule of Justice, in their Resolutions, is not for me to determine."

your Line will ensue upon the total Loss of any further Expectations than they at present have, of Relief from the State; and how serious will be the Consequence to our present meditated Operations, should any Disturbance arise in so respectable a Body of the Troops composing this Army, as that from the State of Connecticut, I leave the State to reflect; for myself, I lament the Prospect, in its most distant Idea.

If your Legislature should not be sitting, (as I suppose they are not), I leave it to your Excellency to determine whether it is necessary imediately to convene them on this Subject. I have only to wish, that it might have as early a Consideration as may be found convenient, or consistent with other Circumstances, which must be best known to your Excellency. I have the Honor etc.[92]

To MAJOR SAMUEL DARBY

Head Quarters, Peekskill, June 28, 1781.

Sir: Col Pickering informs there are now 24 Boats compleatly repaired at Wappingers Creek. Be pleased to send a party to bring these instantly to Peekskill Creek. Let these Boats, and every Batteau at West Point, that is fit for service (including all those now used as ferry Boats, and on every other duty) be hurried to Peekskill with all possible expedition.

The work must not cease, or the Men rest a moment day or Night, until 35 or 40 Batteaux are got down the River. I expect this number will be here by tomorrow Night or the next day Morning without fail. I am etc.

P. S. Heavy Flat Bottomed Boats or those not in good repair may be given to the Ferry and to the other necessary services from which good Batteaux are taken.[93]

[92] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

[93] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Peekskill, June 28, 1781.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's several Letters of the 20th and 21st instant, with their several Enclosures. Sir Henry Clinton has indeed refused to make any Exchange of Genl. Burgoyne in the Military Line, but upon my Consent to put the Prisoners taken at the Cedars upon a footing of Exchange equal with any other Prisoners of War. I know of nothing at present subsisting between Sir Henry and me to prevent a Proposition being made by Congress for the Exchange of Mr Laurens for Genl Burgoyne, in the Mode mentioned by your Excellency. As to Genl Bayleys Memorial, I am persuaded that Congress, from a knowledge of our Circumstances, will be fully sensible that an Expedition into Canada, must be utterly impracticable;[94] they may also be informed, that in the present Situation of our Troops, and their Numbers, with respect to our intended Operations, it is equally out of my Power to lend any Aid for the support of that Frontier.

The Regulations of the Cloathing Department, were we in suitable Circumstances, are very agreeable to my Ideas respecting it. But I beg Congress will be pleased to consider, whether at this Time, when there is great Reason to suppose the Loss of the Marquis le Fayette, expected from France, it will not be best to suspend that Part of the Resolution, which abolishes all State Appointments and Regulations, respecting their Purchase or procuring any further Supplies; unless Congress are fully assured of a sufficient Supply by means of their own Resources, without any Aid from individual States, I have great Reason to fear, the Army will fall much short of its real

[94] The draft, which is also in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr., phrased this as "cannot be undertaken."

Needs; that part of the Regulations which I have mentioned, will most probably give the States an Idea of the Competency of the Continental Resources independant of their Assistance; and they will be very glad to relax their Attention to this Article, which has already given them much Trouble and Expence to obtain; were your Expectations equal to our Wants, I should be fully satisfied without the Intervention of individual States; but some peculiar Fatality seeming to attend all the Attempts for obtaing. Cloathing from abroad, that have hitherto been made by Congress, I am greatly apprehensive, that, without the Aid of the States, we may, by another Campaign, have an Army literally Naked.

Inclosed I send for the Observation of Congress, Copy of a Letter from M Genl. Schuyler, who has undertaken to build a Number of Boats for Public Use; as this Gentleman has been already particularly serviceable to the public by his Advancements, and his Aid may be further needed in our Operations, I beg, that Congress will be pleased to take the most effectual Measures that he may be enabled to fulfill his Engagements in the Time mentioned by him, so that his Credit may not be injured by his Exertions in Favor of the Public. I have the Honor etc.[95]

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, Peekskill, June 28, 1781.

Gentlemen: I have been honored with your favors of the 17th and 22d instant. It ought to be presumed that Mr. Vernor the British Dy. Commy. of prisoners comes to Elizabeth Town no oftener than his business requires, and except there can be proof stronger than suspicion that under cover of his

[95] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

office he carries on a correspondence with disaffected persons in Philada. it will be indelicate to charge him with improper conduct. It is with the enemy to appoint such Characters as they please to fill their several departments, and for us to guard as much as possible against those who may be thought designing or dangerous. I will therefore give Mr. Skinner a hint that the frequency of Mr. Vernors visits gives umbrage and desire him to permit him to come to Elizabeth town no oftener than his business absolutely requires and then to stay no longer than is necessary.

I very much approve of such a Resolve of Congress as General Greene recommends, to prevent our prisoners of War from inlisting into the Enemy's service.

Were our prospects of being certainly able to carry our intended plan of operations into execution more flattering, I should not hesitate in desiring the Stores demanded by General Knox to be brought forward at any expence whatever. But I confess to you this is so far from being the case, that I wish to incur no more in the transportation from the southward to this quarter than can possibly be avoided, because it is far from improbable that the scene of operations may yet be shifted. I have for that reason given Genl. Knox an extract from your letter and have desired him to point out to you such Articles in his estimate as may be essentially necessary to commence operations, the remainder may follow if we are able to prosecute the plan, may remain where they are should we be obliged to desist, or may be turned towards the southward should there be occasion. I would recommend the completion of the order if possible, because the Stores are always valuable. The transportation of the Stores from the Eastward will be continued upon the following principle, that if they are not wanted here they will be so far on their

way to the next point of operation. Those States have cheerfully undertaken to furnish the means of transportation.

Upon changing the position of the Army, the Route of the post is changed also. He now passes at Kings Ferry and avoids the Mountains, which I hope will in some degree remove the danger to which he was formerly exposed. But should that not prove to be the case, I cannot, from the present strength of our Cavalry, furnish even the small escort which is required. Sheldon's Regiment consists of but 60 mounted and Van Heers Corps is upon the point of dissolution by the expiration of their service. You may judge how soon so small a Corps as Sheldons would be worn down had they no other duty to do but that of furnishing four dragoons at a time to be constantly riding post, [but these being all the horse I have to depend upon for Military Service the request of the Post Master Genl. is totally incompatible with it.] There are several excellent troops of Volunteer Horse in Jersey and I make no doubt but an escort could be procured from them, if application was made to the Governor and an adequate compensation for their services allowed. I have the honor etc.[96]

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Head Quarters near Peekskill, June 28, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have recd. your favors of the 15th. and 21st. Your opinion of the absolute necessity of a repeal of all tender laws, before a new species of paper, tho' upon ever so good an establishment, will gain credit with the public, is certainly founded upon reason and justified by experience. I am in hopes that most if not all the Legislatures have at length seen the fatal effects of those laws and have abolished them.

[96] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

I am extremely obliged to you for the assistance you have already afforded us in the Article of Flour, without that aid, we should have been already distressed, and I must candidly confess to you that I see no prospect of being supplied but thro' your means, as, by the last letters from the president and Council of Pennsylvania, I could expect little or nothing from that quarter. Whether the Assembly, in their present session, have adopted any more vigorous measures to obtain supplies, I have not yet been informed.

Previous to the receipt of your favr. of the 21st. I had written to Mr. Lowrey and had pointed out the most eligible Routes for whatever he might purchase.

General Schuyler a few days ago acquainted you that there were more considerable quantities of Flour upon the North River than he had expected. The ease and cheapness of transportation of any in that situation will undoubtedly induce you to secure what may be in that quarter should you find yourself enabled to extend your purchases. I have the honor etc.[97]

*To FIELDING LEWIS

Peaks-kill, June 28, 1781.

My dear Sir: Nothing but the hurry of business, and a mind always on the stretch on acct. of the variety of matter that is constantly presented to it, could have induced me to let your letter of the 24th. of April remain so long unacknowledged. I shall not be able to write to you so fully at this time as I could wish, but this reason shall no longer prevent me from writing at all.

I lament most sincerely, the System of policy which has been but too generally adopted in all the States, to wit, that of temporary expedients; which like quack medicines are so far from

[97] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

removing the causes of complaint that they only serve to increase the disorder; this has, in a most remarkable manner, been the case with respect to short enlistmts; which has been the primary cause of all our misfortunates. all our expences (which may, through a thousand different channels, be traced up to this source), and of the calamities which Virginia, the two Carolinas and Georgia now groan under. That there should be such wretched management in our State as you describe, is much to be regretted. that your representation of this matter is not exagerated I have every reason to believe, because my Estate bears evidence of the truth of it, as I shall be obliged to sell one part to pay taxes on the other, but this I should do with chearfulness if the taxes were equally laid, and judiciously applied. but flagrant partiality is enough to sower the minds of any people, and bring curses on the authors of it. A Man may err once, and he may err twice but when those who possess more than a common share of abilities persevere in a regular course of destructive policy, one is more apt to suspect their hearts than their heads; this from what I have heard may not be misapplied to a person whose name you have mentioned.[98]

I feel much for the present distress of Virginia; and for the many worthy persons on whom the calamities of War have been most severe; and wish my ability to serve them was equal to my wishes, but it is not, I want the means, and yet it is miserable even in contemplation to think, that such a State as Virginia should be overrun by a handful of Men. The spirit of the people is certainly departed from them, for nothing but exertion can be wanting to drive Lord Cornwallis into the Mountains, or to his Ships. Why then does it go undone? I am doing all I can to counteract the enemys plan to the

[98] Patrick Henry.

Southward, but how far I shall succeed time only can discover, the same languor, and the same policy prevails here as elsewhere; how far therefore I shall be able to collect men (and they are yet to be collected) is more than I can say; fatal experience has convinced us that to carry Troops from this quarter to the Southward is to encounter (upon the March only) the loss of one third if not half, in a land March by sickness and desertion, arising from a disinclination to serve in that part of the Continent.

We have nothing very interesting at this time, in this quarter except the Marching of the French Army from Rhode Island to form a junction with ours on this River which event will, probably, take place in about six days. I wish the girls who have lately taken Husbands all the happiness this life affords and very sincerely wish you a perfect recovery of your health. Mrs. Washington left me on Monday last in a very low and weak state having been sick for more than a Month with a kind of Jaundice. It was uncertain whether she would proceed further than Philadelphia till our affairs in Virginia should take a more favourable turn. Remember me in the most Affectionate manner to my Sister and the rest of the family and be assured that I am with much truth Dr. Sir Yr. etc.[99]

[99] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

On June 28 Humphreys wrote to Colonel Scammell: "His Excellency requests the favor of your Company at dinner tomorrow if you are not engaged. At any rate he wishes to see you some time tomorrow without fail, and that you will bring with you, an accurate state of the Troops under your command, and also of Major Porter's Detachment."

Also on this same day (June 28) Tilghman wrote to Colonel Sheldon, who was near Robinson's Mills, "to send immediately two well mounted Dragoons to Danbury and two to Haight's Tavern. They will only be kept at those stations two or three days for a special purpose. Their orders must be for one of them to be always ready to mount by night or day as dispatches may arrive at their station. The Qr. Mr. at Danbury will provide for those who are there. Those at Haights must give a receipt for their Expences and the Qr. Mr. Genl. will have directions to discharge the Account. You will be pleased to put your Corps both Horse and Foot in perfect readiness to move and come down here Yourself." These drafts are in the *Washington Papers.*

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Peekskill, Friday, June 29, 1781.

Parole Dorchester. Countersigns Easton, Fairfield.

For the Day Tomorrow
- Major General Howe
- Colonel Samuel B. Webb
- Major John Porter[1]
- Inspector 1st Massachusetts brigade

The Water-guard is in future to be furnished from Major Darby's command which is for that purpose to be augmented immediately with a Captain, two subs, four serjeants, four Corporals and fifty oarsmen. Captain Pray's detachment is to be relieved accordingly, the oarsmen to assemble on the Grand Parade at four o'clock this afternoon and march as soon as possible to join Major Darby.

To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Head Quarters near Peekskill, June 29, 1781.

My dear Marquis: The last letter I have had the pleasure of receiving from you is dated the 3d. instant. I have since that heard a thousand vague reports of your situation and that of the Enemy, but none of them satisfactory. I fear some of your letters have miscarried; as from your usual punctuality, I am certain you must have written in that time. I hope your next will confirm the accounts which I have this day recd. from Genl. St. Clair, which are that Lord Cornwallis had retreated to the south side of James River.

The Army moved out of their quarters a few days ago and have taken their first position upon this Ground. Count

[1] Of the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment. He was discharged in October, 1782.

Rochambeau with the Van of the French Army will be at Newtown, 42 Miles from hence, this Night. You are acquainted with our general plan; particulars I dare not enter into before I am assured from yourself that there is no danger of my letters falling among those Clouds of Light Troops which you tell me in your last surround Lord Cornwallis's Army.

I inclose you a paper containing some very agreeable accounts from India. I hope from part of them being published by the East India House in London that they are well founded.

Be assured My dear Marquis that my anxiety to hear from you is increased by my sincere regard for you and by the interest I take in every thing which concerns you. Believe me to be most affectionately etc.[2]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Peekskill, Saturday, June 30, 1781.

Parole Gilford. Countersigns Hallifax, Ilford.

For the Day Tomorrow
- Major General Parsons
- Lieutenant Colonel Sherman
- Major Oliver[3]
- Inspector 2d Massachusetts brigade

The General expects the pleasure of forming a junction with the French Army in the course of two days and as it is his Wish to have the American Line as full and as respectable as it is in the power of our numbers to make it, he desires that no officer will be absent from Camp except those who are upon Detachment or other unavoidable public duty and directs moreover that the commanding officers of Corps will make a point of it

[2]The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[3]Maj. Robert Oliver, of the Third Massachusetts Regiment. He was transferred to the Second Massachusetts Regiment in January, 1783, and served to November, 1783.

to have all their men in the Line who are not absent in consequence of General orders or upon such other public duty as cannot be dispensed with.

The General flatters himself that it is unnecessary to exhort the officers to be careful in seeing that the men with their Arms, Accoutrements and Ammunition are in good order. But when so happy an occasion presents itself to call forth the ambition of the officer and the pride of the soldier he hopes a bare hint will be sufficient.

Major Platt having resigned the office of Deputy Quarter master to the Main Army, Lieutenant Colonel Dearborne[4] is appointed in his room and is to be respected accordingly.

The Detachment under Major Porter to be relieved. As these Men will be employed on the Lines it is requested the Detachment may be composed of men who are the most capable of active service.

An orderly serjeant from each Division to be sent to the Adjutant General's Quarters daily.

AFTER ORDERS

The French Army does not come to this ground and as the General is desirous of showing all the Respect in his power to those Generous Allies who are hastening with the Zeal of Friends and the ardor of Soldiers to share with us the fatigues and dangers of the Campaign, He purposes to receive them at some other convenient place and for this purpose will march the whole Line of the American Army now at this encampment at three o'clock on Monday morning next.

The Rout, the Disposition and Order of March will be given to Major General Lord Stirling and as it is possible the march of the French Troops may be impeded by unavoidable

[4]Lieut. Col. Henry Dearborn, of the First New Hampshire Regiment. He served to March, 1783, and was Secretary of War of the United States from 1801 to 1809.

accidents the General Desires that Officers and Men will take with them their Blankets and a spare shirt and a sufficiency of Provisions ready cooked to last 'till thursday inclusive especially of Bread.

The Picquets Camp Guards Officers Guards and every man that is able to march will appear in the line except a few of the most indifferent who may be left to take care of the baggage of each Brigade which ought to be drawn into as narrow a Compass as may be, that the least possible number may suffice to Guard it.

To PHILIP SCHUYLER

Head Quarters, Peekskill, June 30, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have had the Pleasure to receive your two Favors of the 20 and 25th instant, and am much obliged by the Zeal and Chearful Activity with which you are pursuing the very necessary Reparation of Boats.

I have consulted the Q M G with respect to Oakum and Nails, which he tells me he has the best Reason to believe he can procure and forward within your Time, and have also, agreable to your Desire, written to Congress, and enforced to that Body, the Necessity of their takg the most effectual measures, that you may be reimbursed your Engagements by the Time mentioned in your Letter of the 20th. a Copy of which I have taken the liberty to forward the President.

Inclosed is a Letter for Genl Stark, which I beg you to hand to him, in which I have desired him to apply to you for Advice in the Disposition of the Troops on the Frontier, and for your Advice and Assistance, should he at any Time find himself in any Distress on Acco of the Subsistence of the Troops. I am &c.[5]

[5] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL

Head Quarters, Peekskill, June 30, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have just recd your favor of this date.

As the Artillery Men are wanted for a particular purpose, I request you to have them sent down this Night and not wait for the Pieces of Artillery, unless you can immediately find the means of conveyance for the 12 Pounder. Let the Officer report himself at Head Quarters when he arrives. I am etc.[6]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES CLINTON

Head Quarters, Peekskill, June 30, 1781.

Dear Sir: I am favored with your Letter of the 27th and 28th. Inst. and am pleased with the account you give of the perfect readiness in which the Troops are kept for a Movement.

On the receipt of this, you will instantly put the three Regts. of Continental Troops, under your command, in motion for West Point. You will be pleased to have a sufficient number of Vessels for transports immediately procured by hire or impress; and forward the Troops by Regiments, or Detachments of Regts. as soon as possible. It will be necessary for you to remain a little time, to make arrangements respecting the Levies and Militia who are to supply the place of the regular Troops, and to give General Stark, upon his arrival at Saratoga (where he will establish his Head Quarters) every information which will be necessary for the advantage and safety of his future Command. I am &c.[7] [M. L.]

[6] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

Later this same day (June 30) Jonathan Trumbull, jr., wrote McDougall that the "Memorandum . . . sent you this Morng. for a Captain 2 Subs. fifty Men of Artillery, with two *light* Peices to be sent to this Place" was to be modified, "you will let one of the Peices be a Twelve Pounder." Trumbull's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

[7] In the writing of David Humphreys.

To COLONEL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, Peekskill, June 30, 1781.

Sir: Imediately on the Receipt of this you will be pleased to collect all the Troops of your Brigade [except the Coy[8] at Wy]oming and put them in Motion on their March towards Kingsbridge.

As the Operations of the Campaign are on the Point of commencing, you will use your utmost Diligence that the Troops come on with Dispatch. It will be very inconvenient to be loaded with Baggage; you will therefore move on as light as possible, giving me Notice of your Movements and Approach, that I may be enabled to give you any further Orders that may be found Necessary. I am &c.[9]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WATERBURY

Head Quarters near Peekskill, June 30, 1781.

Sir: You will immediately on the Receipt of this be pleased to collect as many Men of your command as you possibly can and march them from the place of rendezvous so as to form a junction without fail with Colonel Sheldon at Clapp's in Kings Street on the second of July by Sunset. You must not exceed that time on any account. You will bring four days provision, and ready cooked. You will receive further Orders at Clapp's. You will carry on no Baggage; the movement to be as light as possible. I must enjoin and I shall depend upon your keeping your movement a profound secret from any Officer under your command.

[8] Company.

[9] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

You will be pleased to inform me by return of Captain Buckley[10] with the number of Men which you think you shall probably collect. I am etc.

P. S. It will be absolutely necessary for you to send on upon the Roads below you in the Rout to Marinack,[11] shall Parties of your trusty Men, and well acquainted with that Country, who may waylay the Roads and prevent any Intelligence going to the Enemy; this must be attended to With the greatest Care and Vigilance; these Parties not to be seen in the Roads, but be concealed in Fields.[12]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL DAVID COBB

Head Quarters, Peekskill, June 30, 1781.

Dear Sir: The inclosed Letter to the Count de Rochambeau is of very great Importance, and requires the utmost Secrecy in its Communication. This Idea you will convey to the Count before its delivery, to effect which you will first converse with the Chevalr. Chattalux on the Mode of its Communication. Its object is to inform the Count, that I have in Contemplation a very sudden surprise of some Post of the Enemy which will be of very great importance in our Operations, and which we have very flattering Expectations of obtaing; to cover and Support which if obtained we shall Want the Aid of the French Army; in which Case it will be necessary for the Count to push on his Troops with greater haste than he at present intends, by a different Route from that now in Idea. The Duke's Legion to Advance. The Movements which I would wish to be made

[10] Capt. Edward Bulkley (Buckley), of the Third Connecticut Regiment. He was made brigadier major from February to August, 1782, and served to June, 1783.

[11] Mamaroneck, N. Y.

[12] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman; the P. S. is in that of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

by the French Army are particularized in my Letter to the Count which you will see. It will be for you to impress the Gentlemen with the Importance of their Motions to support our Operations, as it will be to little Purpose for us to obtain Advantages which we may not be able to maintain.

As the Count with his Troops is now in a very disaffected part of the Country and the Tories will be very desirous to give every Information in their Power; the most profound Secrecy will be necessary. Secrecy and Dispatch must prove the Soul of success to Enterprise. This Idea you will impress with Energy; using your best Discretion in the Mode. I am &c.[13]

To CAPTAIN WILLIAM SACKET

Head Quarters, Peekskill, June 30, 1781.

Sir: On the first day of July (that is tomorrow) you will assemble all the Men of the three Companies of the State Troops of New York, under your Command at Bedford, where you will meet with Colonel Sheldon at or before night from whom you will be pleased to receive your Orders. It will be necessary for you previously to draw four days Provision for the Men and have their Arms, Accoutrements and Ammunition in the most perfect readiness for use. I request in the most earnest manner, that you will not shew this Letter, or mention the subject of it to any Person, or make any extraordinary noise, or give any occasion to a suspicion, either among your own Officers or Men, or the Country People, that you are making

[13]The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

Filed in the *Washington Papers,* at the end of June, 1781, are two undated manuscripts relating to this proposed attempt on the north end of York Island: 1. "Questions to be asked British deserters, with answers thereto." Eighteen queries, the first 14 of which are in Washington's writing and the last 4 in that of Humphreys. The answers are in Tilghman's writing and appear to have been obtained from one Quinn and one Middleton. 2. "Enquiries to be made in New York" by secret agents. These are in the writing of Tilghman.

preparations for any movement whatever. On your punctual compliance with this Order, your reputation as an Officer must depend. I am &c.[14]

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters near Peekskill, June 30, 1781.

Sir: I had last Evening the honor of your Excellency's favor of the 28th. with a postscript of the 29th:

The enemy, by sending a detachment into Monmouth County in Jersey to collect Horses, Cattle and other plunder, have so weakened their posts upon the North end of York Island, that a most favorable opportunity seems at this moment to present itself of possessing them by a Coup de main, which, if it succeeds, will be of the utmost consequence to our future operations. I have for this reason determined to make the attempt on the night of the 2d. of July. But as we cannot with the remainder of our own force maintain the advantage should we gain it, I must entreat your Excellency to put your first Brigade under march tomorrow Morning, the remaining Troops to follow as quick as possible, and endeavour to reach Bedford by the evening of the 2d. of July, and from thence to proceed immediately towards Kingsbridge should circumstances render it necessary. Your Magazines having been established on the Route by Crompond it may perhaps be out of your power to make any deviation; but could you make it convenient you would considerably shorten the distance by marching from Ridgebury to Salem and from thence to Bedford leaving Crompond on your right.

There is another matter which appears to me exceedingly practicable upon the same night that we attempt the Works

[14] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

upon York Island and which I would wish to commit to the execution of the Duke De Lauzun, provided his Corps can be brought to a certain point, in time. It is the surprise of a Corps of light Troops under the command of Colo. Delancey which lies at Morrisania, without being covered by any Works. To effect this, the Duke must be at Bedford on the 2d. of July by 12 OClock if possible, where he will be joined by Colo. Sheldon with 200 Horse and Foot and on his march from thence by about 400 Infantry, both Officers and Men perfectly acquainted with the Country. Upon a supposition that the Duke may be at Bedford at the above mentioned time and that he will be ready to carry the design into execution, he shall be met there by particular instructions from me and will find good guides. At any rate, I must request your Excellency to send orders to the Duke this evening to continue his march tomorrow morning and to reach Bedford by the Evening of 2d. of July if he cannot be there by noon. In this latter case the enterprise against Delancey must probably be laid aside, and the Legion with the first Brigade of your Army will be at hand to support the detachment upon York Island should they succeed. I shall move down with the remainder of this Army towards Kingsbridge and shall be ready to form a junction with your Excellency below at some point which shall be hereafter agreed upon.

I am certain I need not recommend the proper degree of secrecy to your Excellency. One reason which makes it more than commonly necessary in the Country where you are, is, that the enemy will have emissaries in your Camp in the Garb of peasants with provisions and other matters and will be attentive to every word which they may hear drop.

You will much oblige me by letting me know instantly by return of the line of Expresses whether your first Brigade and the Legion can march tomorrow Morning and whether the

Duke can be at Bedford by the time first proposed (the 2d. of July at Noon).

Under the foregoing circumstances it becomes necessary for me to march from hence on Monday, and I therefore submit to your Excellency whether it will not be more convenient to both of us to defer our interview untill the Armies shall have proceeded lower down. I shall take care to establish a proper communication between the Columns and to see that a junction is formed before there shall be any danger of an attack from the Enemy. I have the honor etc.[15]

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, near Peekskill, June 30, 1781.

Dear Sir: In fullest confidence I inform you that I intend to make an attempt by surprise upon the Enemys posts on the North End of York Island on Monday night. Should we be happy enough to succeed and be able to hold our conquest the advantages will be greater than can be well imagined. But I cannot flatter myself that the Enemy will permit the latter, except I am suddenly and considerably reinforced. I shall march down the remainder of this Army, and have hopes that the French force will be near at hand by that time. But I shall, notwithstanding, direct the Alarm Guns and Beacons to be fired in case of success, and I have to request that your Excellency will, upon such signals, communicate the meaning of them to the Militia and put yourself at the head of them and march with the utmost expedition towards Kingsbridge, bringing with you three or four days provision at least. In that time, I think we shall have so arranged matters as to have little need of the Militia called out upon the moment.

[15] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

I have, upon a hope that we shall succeed, ordered Brigr. Genl. Clinton to send down the regular troops immediately. Should circumstances make it necessary, I can countermand the order. I have the honor etc.[16]

*THOUGHTS ON . . . THE SURPRISE OF . . . THE NORTH END OF YORK ISLAND

[June, 1781]

[pro]per place to lye concealed at during the day.

Before an Officer or Soldier is suffered to put a foot on shore they are to be charged not to make fires or talk loud, and are to be charged more over under pain of instt. death not to stir 20 yds. from their Arms (whch. are to be stacked near the Boats but not with in view of the opposite shore. The Boats are to be concealed with boughs, and the men not suffered to walk where they can be seen. In a word, they are to lye down, sleep, and refresh themselves for the fatiegues of the ensuing night.

Towards Sun down the business is to be disclosed to the principal Officers of the detachment, and those who are to command the different attacks are to have their orders in writing, that no possible misconception of them may happen. At this time also, the precise hour is to be ascertained, and the Watches made to agree to a moment; the hour of attack is likewise to be fixed upon and ought, if practicable, to be at the same instant, at every point.

Every matter, and thing, must be clearly settled, and fully understood, before the embarkation at this place. The Arms and Ammunition are to be inspected, the pieces searched, and not one suffered to be loaded. The Troops will again embark by detachment in the following order. That for Fort Knyp-

[16] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

hausen first; Fort Tryon next; Fort George on Laurel hill next; and those for Cox hill (at the Mouth of Spiten devil) and Prince Charles's redoubt by the bridge last, and in this order they will proceed with the utmost secresy and silence under the shade of the Jersey shore till they come opposite to the enemy's works when they are, except the last detachment, to cross directly over to the landing immediately under Fort Knyphausen which lyes in a small cove or Bason 2 or 300 yards above our old Battery at the point known by the name of Jeffreys Rock.

Very particular attention must be given to the tide at the time of crossing, for if it should happen to ebb the Boats may be driven so near Jeffreys rock as to be discovered by the Sentry from a Sergts. guard which mounts there at Night. On the other hand, the flood tide may heave the Boats up the river, so as to be discovered by a Corporals guard above the Palisading or Stockade on the North River at Fort Tryon. The detachment before excepted, should make for the low land between Fort Tryon and Cox's hill where there has been a Wood landing, and from whence a good road leads immediately both to Cox's hill and the redoubt at the bridge.

When the Boats approach near to the place of debarkation the Troops in them are to lie low, if they should notwithstanding be discovered, and hailed, they must endeavor to pass for deserters or Traders; but rather the former, having brought off a number of Boats which they mean to deliver up, for pay; after landing and forming into a solid column by detachment as aforesaid, they will proceed to the proper points of seperation; when each detachment will move rapidly (but in good order) to acquire the honor, and sieze the advantages which they are in pursuit of. The Column before seperation, and each party afterwards, should be preceeded by a small guard who should pass as long as possible for friends, decoy Sentries,

and announce the approach of a re-inforcement for the works towards which they are marching. or have recourse to some other device which the exigency of the momt. may dictate.

As the combining of many attacks all of which being to be made at the same moment and a deviation in point of time in any one may give the alarm to the rest and defeat the whole following enterprize will be found more simple, more practicable, and perhaps equally important, as the redoubt by King's bridge and that at the Mouth of Spiten devil would not remain in the hands of the enemy long if we possessed their Works at the barrier.

	Detachmt. for this Service					
Points of Attack	Soldiers for it					
	Field Offcrs.	Capt.	Subs.	Sergt.	R&F	Tota
Fort Tryon	1	2	4	6	100	113
Fort Knyphasusen	2	6	12	18	300	338
Fort George L: Hill	3	8	16	24	400	451
Total	6	16	32	48	800	902
Artillerists		2	4	6	50	62

Points of Attack	Batteaumen					Boats
	Field Offcrs.	Capt.	Subs.	Oars men	Total	
Fort Tryon Fort Knyphasusen Fort George L: Hill	1	1	6	160	168	32
Total	1	1	6	160	168	32
Artillerists				10	10	2

If the enemy's Armed Vessels and guard Boats in the North river cannot be eluded the enterprize fails of course, and the Detachment must return; because an alarm from the Water will give such timely notice as to render a surprize impracticable, and without it, the Works cannot be carried without great loss, if at all.

If the guard Boats are passed undiscovered, the deception will be the greater if the detachment continues along the Jersey shore 'till it gets opposite to Morris's white House where, in some obscure place, it may land and form, and march in the most undiscoverable way to the proper point of separation when the detachments for Forts Knyphausen and Tryon will file to the left and that for Fort George, or Laurel Hill, to the Right and each move rapidly for their object calling themselves a reinforcement for the Works they are marching towards, and endeavouring to pass as such.

Previous to, or about the time of embarking the detachment, parties of Horse and foot should be ordered to way lay every avenue in both sides of the River by which the enemy may obtain intelligence of the movement of the detachment and every precaution used that can be thought of to conceal the attempt and give success to the Enterprize.[17]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Peekskill, Sunday, July 1, 1781.

Parole Kendall. Countersigns Lancaster, Monmouth.

For the day Tomorrow
- Brigadier General Patterson
- Lieutenant Colonel Reid
- Major Throop
- Inspector 3d Massachusetts brigade

[17] This paper, the first folio of which is missing, is indorsed as headed by Washington.

The Quarter Master General will order the Billhooks and Hatchets to be sent to King's ferry to the orders of Major Darby who will apply to Head Quarters for instructions.

Colonel Scammell will move with the Light Troops towards the mouth of Croton river to afford Major Darby any assistance that may be necessary in procuring Fascines.

AFTER ORDERS

The Army will march tomorrow morning by the right at the hour appointed in the after orders of yesterday. The General will beat at two o'clock, the Assemblé at half past two; the March to commence at three in the following order: The Advanced Guard, pioneers, one fieldpiece, 6 pounder. General Parsons's Division followed by a field piece, 6 pounder; the spare ammunition of General Parsons's division.

General Lincoln's division preceded by one of the field pieces attach'd to it and followed by the other; the spare ammunition of General Lincoln's Division.

General Howe's division:

The Brigade commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Reid preceded by one field piece, 6 pounder; the corps of Sappers and miners, one light, twelve pounder.

The Brigade commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Smith followed by a field piece, 6 pounder.

Spare ammunition of General Howe's division.

Rear Guard.

The advanced guard will consist of one sub, two serjeants, two Corporals, two Drums and fifes and twenty seven privates from each brigade and a Captain from each division; it will parade at half past two o clock on the great road in front of the Left of the first Connecticut Brigade and be commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Reid.

The present camp guards of the Army with the Addition of a Captain from each Division will form the Rear Guard and parade at three o'clock on the great road at Commissary Irvin's Quarters under the Command of Lieutenant Colonel Sherman.

The Battalions composing the line as well as the Advance and Rear guards will be careful to secure their flanks agreeably to the Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Army (Chap 14); the Officers of the Day and those commanding Battalions and Platoons will be answerable that no man quits his Platoon on any pretence.

The Quarter Master General will furnish the Route.

Brigadier General Glover is Appointed Brigadier General for the day tomorrow vice General Patterson indisposed.

INSTRUCTIONS TO MAJOR GENERAL BENJAMIN LINCOLN

Head Quarters near Peekskill, July 1, 1781.

The object of your present command consisting of two Regiments (formed into 4 Battalions) under the command of Colo. Scammell and Lt. Colo. Sprout, of a detachment of Artillery under the command of Capt. Burbeck;[18] of the Corps of Watermen under the command of Major Darby and the Water Guard under the command of Capt. Pray, is to attempt the surprise of the enemy's posts upon the North End of York Island.

My Ideas as to the most probable mode of attaining this object have been minutely detailed in the several conversations which we have had upon the subject, and you have been furnished with such papers as I have been able to collect and upon which my judgment has been formed. But it is not my wish or

[18] Capt. Henry Burbeck, of the Third Continental Artillery. He served to November, 1783.

desire that these should be any restraint upon you. Your own observation and the circumstances of the moment must in a great degree govern.

The success of your enterprise depending absolutely upon secrecy and surprise, it will be wrong to prosecute it a moment after you are discovered, unless that discovery is made so near the Works, that you may, by a rapid movement, gain them before the enemy have time to recollect and put themselves in a posture of defence.

Fort George upon Laurel Hill ought to be your primary object, because success at that place will open a communication with the main; afford an Asylum to the troops which may be disappointed in other attacks, and secure a retreat in case of necessity to the main Body of the Army.

Should you carry Fort Knyphausen and Fort Tryon only; you cannot without infinite risque hold them, as we shall not be in a situation to support you from without. I would therefore recommend your damaging them as much as you possibly can upon a sudden and relinquishing them.

The Artillery Men will be proportionably divided to the three attacks; each party of them will be provided with two Lanthorns and two Rockets, one of which is to be fired in each Work as soon as it is carried.

If compleat success should attend the enterprize, not a moments time should be lost, in drawing the Boats across the Island from the North River into Harlem Creek, and securing them under the Guns of Fort George, [if circumstances will admit of it]. But in case of a disappointment and being obliged to retreat by Water, and not being able to pass the enemy's ship and Boats, the dernier resort must be a push over to the Jersey shore, and an abandonment of the Boats if they cannot be drawn up the Bank and carried off in Carriages.

It will be very essential that I should be made acquainted, and as early as possible, with your success and the extent of it. If compleat; you will announce it by the firing of 13 Cannon at one Minutes interval, after all lesser firing and confusion have ceased. If Fort George only is carried, 6 Cannon are to be fired in the same manner. For Fort Knyphausen or Tryon or both of them you need not give Signals because you are, as before directed, immediately to relinquish them.

The foregoing is upon a supposition that the principal object, the attempt upon the Works on York Island, is carried into execution. But should you, upon reconnoitring the enemy tomorrow, find it unadvisable to prosecute the plan, or should you be obliged to give it over on account of an early discovery by the enemy's shipping or Boats; I would then have you turn your attention to the support of an attempt which is also to be made on the morning of the 3d. by the Duke de Lauzun upon Delanceys Corps laying at Morrissiana. To effect this, you will land your Men at any convenient place above the Mouth of Spiten Devil Creek, and march to the High Grounds in Front of Kings Bridge, where you will lay concealed untill the Dukes attack is announced by firing or other means. You may then dispose of your force in such a manner in view of the Enemy as to make them think your party larger than it is, which may have the double effect of preventing them from coming over the Bridge to turn the Dukes right, and also of preventg. any of Delanceys party from escaping that way. Your further operations must depend upon the movements of the enemy and other circumstances.

I expect I shall be myself in the neighbourhood of Kingsbridge early in the morning of the 3d. with the remainder of the Army. I shall as soon as possible open a communication with you and give you such orders as the general state of

matters may require. If you land, send an officer and small party up the main Road to meet me.

In case you land upon the East side of the River above the mouth of Spiten Devil Creek, you will send your Boats up along the East shore. If Major Darby receives no particular directions from me, he will proceed with them to Kings ferry.[19]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WATERBURY

Head Quarters, Peekskill, July 1, 1781.

Sir: I wrote you Yesterday pr Captain Bulkley, directg you to march with all the Troops you can collect under your Comand and form a Junction at Clapps in Kingstreet, with Colo Sheldon, who is to be at that Place on the 2d instant. I am now to inform you that you will also be joined at the Same Time and place by the French Legion under the command of the Duke de Lauzun, who is a Brigadier in the service of his Most Christian Majesty, and an Officer of Distinction, long Service and Merit. The Duke is to command the whole Troops which will be assembled at the Point mentioned; you will therefore be pleased on his arrival to put yourself and Troops under his Orders and Command; he being furnished with my Instructions for his Movement subsequent to meeting you at Clapp's.

As the Duke will be a Stranger to that part of the Country which is to be the Scene of your Operations, it will be in your Power to give him much Assistance and Information, which I have not a Doubt but you will do with the greatest Chearfulness and Alacrity; the service you will be called to, is of great Moment, and will require to be executed with great Precaution, Attention and Dispatch. I am etc.[20]

[19] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[20] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To COLONEL ELISHA SHELDON

Head Quarters, Peekskill, July 1, 1781.

Sir: Agreable to the Memorandum given Yesterday to Colo Jameson directing the March of the Troops under your Command, I presume you will be at Bedford by the Time given, which is Tomorrow (the 2d) by 12 oClock at Noon; at Bedford you will expect to be joined by the Duke de Lauzun, with the Legion under his Comand, who is to be there at the Time mentioned for your Arrival. But should the Duke, by any accident be retarded in his March and not come up by that Time, you will be pleased to let Lt Colo Jameson proceed with the Infantry and mounted Troops of your Comand agreeable to his Directions of Yesterday on their way to Clapps, which Place they must Reach by Sunsett; yourself, remaing at Bedford untill the Duke Arrives, with whom you will proceed on your march to Clapps, where you will be joined by Genl Waterbury and the Troops under his Comand.

The Duke will have my Instructions, conveyed to him by Colo Hull, to take the Comand of the whole Body of Troops which will be assembled at Clapps and to conduct their subsequent Movements and Operations. You will therefore put yourself and the Troops under his Direction and Orders. As the Duke will be a Stranger to the Ground which will be the Scene of your Operations, you will be pleased to co-operate with him with Chearfulness, and lend him every Assistance, Information, Council and Advice that shall be in your Power. Colo Hull who conveys my Instructions to the Duke, will also accompany him in the Enterprise; his particular Knowledge and late Experience in that part of the Country, will, I hope, be peculiarly useful. I am &c.[21]

[21] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To COLONEL CHARLES STEWART

Head Quarters near Peekskill, July 1, 1781.

Sir: You will perceive by the after orders of yesterday that the Army are to draw four days provision which I imagine will be sufficient to last them until their return to Camp again. But as that may not be the case, and as it may be found expedient after our junction with the French Army to take a position lower down, you will keep all your Stores ready to move at a moments warning by land or Water. The Quarter Master General will furnish the means should there be occasion. You will preserve all the live Cattle now upon hand or which may come in, untill further orders, as they can be expeditiously sent down should the Army have occasion for them below. You will continue the baking of Hard Bread and will form as large a Magazine of salt provision at this place as you possibly can. I am &c.[22]

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, Peekskill, July 1, 1781.

Sir: I have been Honored with your Favr of last Night, and feel myself much obliged by the Readiness with which you make a Compliance to the Request made you in my last.

The Information conveyed by your Excellency, I had before received, 'tho not in so pointed a View with respect to Numbers. The Enemys Apprehension of our Intentions, and the Probability I had Reason to apprehend that their Force would be collected to the North End of the Island on their receiving Information of our Approach, were among the Reasons that induced me to fall upon this Enterprise and added to other Reasons for the necessity of its *sudden* Execution, the present

[22] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Stage of the Moon operated for fixing the Time I mentioned. The Success of the Enterprise depending on a Sudden Surprise of the Posts, which must be attempted by Night Operations, when the Approach can only be concealed; a delay to a fuller Time of the Moon, which would greatly expose our Detachment to a Discovery, could not be admitted. These Reasons I hope will apologize to your Excellency for my Desire to hasten the March of your Troops, which must be fatigued with the long march which they have already performed.

Should we be so happy as to succeed in this Attempt, it would give us exceeding great Advantage in our future Operations, and indeed save us perhaps the Time of good part of the Season to [establish a communication with York Island]. I am obliged, however, to confess to your Excellency, that I am not highly sanguine in my Expectations, altho I think there is a good Probability of Succeeding; so great, that I have thot it expedient to put the Attempt at hazzard.

From my late Information however, and that I may not Risque too much, I have directed the Officer comandg the Detachment (Majr Genl Lincoln, who will Tomorrow be in a Position for the Purpose) that he shall in Person reconnoitre the Scituation of the Enemy, and inform himself by any Means in his Power of their probable Strength and Numbers; from whence he will be able to determine the Practicability of accomplishg his Aim. On this Ground the Attempt will be reduced to a Contingency; General Lincoln having my Instructions to conduct himself eventually agreeable to his own Discoveries and his Judgment of his probable Success or Failure; should he obtain such information of the Enemy's Position and Strength as to oblige him to decline the Attempt on their Posts; he will then, agreeable to his Instructions throw himself into a situation to form a Covering Party to the Enterprise to be conducted by the Duke de Lauzun.

I shall keep myself constantly informed of the Movements of Genl Lincoln, and as the Army under my immediate Command will be moving towards the Point of Operations, I shall be able to give such Instructions and Orders from Time to Time, as Events shall render necessary; of which your Excellency may depend on being regularly advised.

Such Instructions as the present Circumstances will enable me to make out for the Duke de Lauzun, are prepared, and will meet him at Bedford by the Time of his Arrival at that Place. I have the Honor etc.[23]

To DUC DE LAUZUN

Head Quarters, Peekskill, July 1, 1781.

Sir: I had yesterday the honor of informing the Count De Rochambeau of a Plan I had in contemplation of attempting to surprize some of the Enemy's Posts, before they were alarmed by the junction of the French and American Armies, and requested the aid of your Corps in the execution of that design. In consequence of the answer of the Count, and upon the presumption that you will be at Bedford by 12 OClock tomorrow I have directed Lt Col Hull to repair to that place and communicate to you verbally my wishes and intentions, he being perfectly acquainted with the different parts of my plan, I beg leave to refer you to him.

You will be informed that there are two Enterprises in contemplation, the one under the command of Major Genl Lincoln against the Posts on the No end of York Island, the other an attempt to Cut off Delanceys and other Light Corps of the Enemy at Morrissania, with the Troops under your Command.

The Troops which will compose your command (exclusive of your own Legion) will consist of the Connecticut State

[23] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

Troops, under the command of Brigadier Gen Waterbury, Col Sheldon's Legion and three Companies of the State Troops of New York; with the two latter you will form a junction at Bedford, should you arrive by 12 OClock as is proposed; and with the former (Genl Waterbury) at King Street if you should reach that place by sunset. They have directions to put themselves under your Orders.

As the success of the Enterprize under Major Gen Lincoln, which would be of infinite consequence to us, will depend entirely upon his reaching the point of debarkation, landing his Men and making the attack upon the Enemy's Works before they shall be alarmed; it will be necessary for you to regulate the Movement of the Corps under your Command in such a manner as that you will be at West Chester or in the neighbourhood of it, between the Break of day and Sunrise. By this means you will be at hand soon enough to strike the Blow by surprize, and not so early as to frustrate the expedition under Genl Lincoln. General Waterbury, Colo Sheldon, Capt. Sacket, and Capt Williams of the York Troops having a perfect knowledge of the Country, the route, the distance, and the position of the Enemy, I need only suggest, that it may be expedient to consult with them respecting the Roads, the time of March, the disposition for the attack &c; they will be able to furnish you with good guides and all the necessary information.

Should the object which is to be attempted by General Lincoln, from any circumstances be laid aside, he will land above Kings-bridge to support you, at all events I shall be with the Army in the vicinity of that place, it will therefore be expedient for you when you approach towards Williams's Bridge, to open a communication with the American Troops on the Road near the North River, by sending an Officer with an Escort to that Road.

I am very apprehensive, from the long march you will have to make on the 2d of July and the night succeeding it, that the Infantry of your Legion will not be able to be brought on to Morrissania in time; I would advise in that case, that they should be left behind to come up at their leisure, and that your Cavalry (which will not probably be so much fatigued) should advance with the other Infantry to the attack.[24]

Colonel Hull being an Officer of great merit and perfectly acquainted with the ground at and near Morrissania, and having formerly been employed in a successful enterprise against the Enemy at that place, I take the liberty to recommend him to you as a Gentleman who will be extremely useful in assisting you to make the necessary dispositions, and who will be happy to afford you every aid in his power.

It is unnecessary to recommend that every possible precaution should be used to keep the design a perfect secret from the Enemy, from the Country People, and even from the Troops (except such Officers as it is necessary to advise with) until the moment of your arrival at the Enemy's Lines. I have the honor etc.[25]

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM GREENE

Head Quarters, Peekskill, July 1, 1781.

Sir: I have not been favored with any Letter from you since General Heath went to the Eastward; from his account and Gen Cornell's I have reason to believe your Excellency's Dispatches for me have Miscarried.

[24] At this point in the draft the following is crossed out: "When you make the disposition of your Troops, for carrying the enterprize into execution, I am persuaded you will regard Morrissania as the principal point of attack, making proper Detachments to watch the Enemy at Frogs Neck, West Chester, Delanceys Bridge, as well as to keep up the Communications, and to cut off the Enemy's retreat to York or Long Islands, and that you will send a party as near as may be without being under the fire of their Works to watch the Bridge near the Redoubt Number 8; and another to seize and keep possession of all the Boats on the Harlem River."

[25] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

General Cornell informed me the State of Rhode Island has contracted for 30,000 lb of Beef, to be forwarded to the Army in the Month of June and the same quantity in the Month of July; that half the Money was advanced to the Contractor, and that he was laid under heavy Bonds to comply effectually with the terms of the contract. I have now to acquaint your Excellency, that not a pound of Beef has arrived from Your State, and that the Army cannot be subsisted unless the Requisitions upon the States are punctually complied with.

Let me entreat your Excellency that the supply of Beef Cattle may instantly be forwarded from Rhode Island. I have the honor etc.[26]

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, Peekskill, July 1, 1781.

My Dear Sir: I am obliged again to trouble your Excellency with the Distress we are in for Want of Provisions to feed the Troops; by a Return from the Comy Genl. of Issues, we have received from the 12th of May to this Day only 312 Head of Cattle, and those in the followg Proportions Vizt:

N Hampshire	30
Massachusetts Bay	230
Connecticut	52
	312, from

this Supply, with the Help of the Salted Provisions, we have barely subsisted from Hand to Mouth. the Army is now Augmenting, and in the Field; and yet our Prospects of Provisions rather seem on the decline, than otherwise, if we may judge from its actual Arrival; very little having come on lately, and no Knowledge being had of any Supply on the Roads; thus

[26] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

circumstanced, I am obliged to declare, that unless more strenuous Exertions are made by the States to feed their few Troops in the Field, we shall be reduced to the Necessity not only to relinquish our intended Operations, but shall be obliged absolutely to disband for Want of Subsistence; or, which is almost equally to be lamented, the Troops will be obliged to seek it for themselves wherever it is to be found; either of these Circumstances takg Place, will put us into a most distressing Situation on our own Acc. and at the same Time place us in a most shameful Point of View in the Eyes of our French Allies; and unhappily reduce them to a most disagreeable Dilema. Our Expectations lookg altogether to the Eastern States for a Supply of the Meat kind, I must intreat your Excellency, that every possible Measure may be exerted, that your State may furnish its Quota of fresh Beef and that we may have a speedy Earnest of their Intentions. I am informed that the Salted Provisions begins to fail comg on. I hope your Quantity is not yet exhausted. That I may obtain a thorough Knowledge of what is now on Hand, on the Road and in the State, and that I may thereby be enabled to judge what our Dependance may be on that Article; I have desired Colo Stewart the C. Gen of Issues to send on the Road, into the State, one of his most active and intelligent People, to make strict Enquiry, and to obtain a real Return of all he can find, and to urge the Necessity of immediate forwardg. If he should have Occasion to apply to your Excellency, I dare say you will give him every Assistance and Information in your Power. I have the Honor etc.

P. S. Mr. Stevens will mention the Necessity of Rum, and the Deficiency from your State, of that Article.[27]

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[27] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

On July 1 Washington wrote to Capt. John Pray: "You will be pleased to put a Sub or Sergt. with two Boats properly manned under the Command of Capt. Lawrence." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

*To BRIGADIER GENERAL EDWARD HAND

[July 2, 1781]

Sir: You will take the Command of [the detachment] which is intended to Surprise the Enemy's Pos[ts on the] end of York Island.

I entertain too high an opinion [of your di]ligence abilities and judgment as an Officer, [to restrict you] by Instructions. In the execution of this pr[oject] you will consider what follows as hints whic[h may be] improved upon, or departed from, as circum[stances] warrant.

On the concealment of your movement [pre]vious to the Night destined for the enterpr[ize the] precautions, spirit, and celerity of [your march by] Land, depends your success.

It will be no difficult matter to [keep the de]tachment under your orders ignorant, of [the ob]ject till you have passed the Post at King[sbridge on] which you would do well to confide the m[anoeuvre to the] Fields Officers and use every possible preca[ution to prevent] desertion, and to conceal the Boats, that [they may not] be discovered from the East shore; and if p[ossible by any] passage Boats on the River. To effect the[se purposes] no Boat under any pretence whatever to L[and or] arrive at the first place of concealment [before dark. The] detachment be preceeded by a Van-gua[rd of] Men, who shall take possession of the gro[und the detachment is] to halt at, and form a close chain of Sent[ries before] the detachment arrives, with orders to [forbid any one] under pain of instant death to go withou[t the lines.] To effect the Second, i, e, the concealmen[t of the boats] Let there be Bows cut and struck without them, them as circumstances will admit. No [fire to] be kindled, or admitted on any Acct. The [men] not be permitted to walk about, not even [the sentries] (who should

have Bayonets only in their ha[nds during the] day, lest the glittering of their Arms should [discover] them)

You ought not to pass the Island [or] Fort Montgomery and the Dunderberg till it [is dark] lest you should be discovered by the light [ ] or theInhabitants of Peekskill. It is most [desira-]ble to pass the Posts at Kings-ferry undiscovered, b[ut] unless the night should be exceedingly dark, and the Sentries remiss, it is scarcely to be expected. It will be [nece]s-sary therefore that a confidential person [be] [ ]e near the Sentry on each side the river to [say] [to him] *if he should challenge* that they are Boa[ts with] [provi]sion and stores, and a relief for the Post at D[obbs] [Ferry. If] contrary to expectation the Boats by keeping [in the middl]e of the River, and in compact order, should [pass] undiscovered, then let these confidential [persons a]lso go off unnoticed.

The Boats should keep the middle of the River [until they] have passed the Docks by Noels, and then hug the [Jersey] shore for fear of missing their Halting place, [which] will be on the West side nearly opposite to, but [ ] below Tellers point, and just round the Verdri-[eteges] hook, where there is a small spot (notwithstand[ing]e high and craggy Bank) where the detachment [may lye] concealed. This place as far as my memory [serves m]e is between a quarter and half a mile below the [landing] (Slaughters) from whence a road leads up to [ ]t by . Here the detachment and [boats ar]e to remain concealed all the succeeding day. [ ]ot must be discovered by the Van guard previ-[ous to the] arrival of the detachment to prevent delay, [and] the chain of Sentries may be formed before [tr]oops are debarked for the purposes already [mentio]ned.

After dark the detachment will embark and [then] proceed down the River, keeping the middle there-[of until] they pass

the Post at Dobb's ferry, when they [must a]t once] get under the Jersey shore and keep it close [until they] come to the Vineyard, where they are to Land [and re]main concealed all the next day, observing the [same] precautions as before, till night. Captn. [Pray] will have Instructions previous to this for [his con]duct, that his guard Boats may not give an [alarm] and discover the design, but made to subserve [to it as] much as possible. At this place the Officers and [men sho]uld divest themselves of every kind of Baggage [also the]ir Blankets, which may all be deposited under [the cha]rge of an Officer with such men as may be judged [least capa]ble of the enterprise; the Officer is to be instru-[cted to] move up the River with the Baggage an hour be[fore] day if he does not see and hear the signals of success, and [for t]his purpose he is to have Boats left with him, of the [hea]viest kind.

It is at this place that the design is to be fully unfolded and every Officer made perfectly master of the part he is to act; and too much pains cannot be taken to impress it upon the Minds of all, that surprises well concerted seldom or never fail [except] through misconception of orders, blunders [in the executi]on of them, intemperate zeal, or want [of courage;] the one they are going upon will be br[ight and glori]ous, or disgraceful and ruinous, as it m[ay be well or ill] executed; and that most important good [effects will] result from the former.

Here the parties for the differe[nt assaults,] the reserve, and for the Van-guard of each [storming par]ty (which will become the forlorn hope af[ter the main body] be told off; and not only the first, but the se[cond officer in] the command of each, be informed in the m[ost exact] terms what he is to do. the Van guard or for[lorn hope] should be composed of choice Officers, and m[en of known] Bravery, and known fidility.

such as will p[romptly enter ac]tion in the first place, and will not be impe[ded by trifles] when they come to the assault. and who will [be able by stratagy] and resolution to decoy and sieze Sentries, stragg[lers and small] parties which may fall in their way as [well;] in a word, it is at this place that all you[r attention] for embarking, debarking, and advancing [to the attack by] Land should be made; in doing which, [certain] contingencies which may happen should [be thought] of and provided for as far as possible.

That you may be certain of arr[iving at the] place of debarkation in season (which at f[I] think should be by two o'clock or, perhaps would be [ ]) you should [be ready] soon as it is sufficiently dark, especially [if the] Wind should be adverse (for it is better t[o have] hours to spare than to be two minutes after [the] time for the attack), keep close under the [high] banks of the Jersey shore, with a light Boat [on your] Flank, but not far distant, and a Boat a he[ad which] instructed what to do in case it should me[et a] Boat of the Enemy. It may not be amiss for [this advance] Boat to halt before it comes in view of the Hou[se be]low Fort Lee, till the whole Line comes up. or [if it] be judged improper to delay a moment so direc[ly opposite] to the enemy's works then to keep slowly on to [ ] from whence they will strike directly across [ ] setting a drift softly and slyly, every vessel along [ ] to prevent intelligence getting over.

The place which, in my opinion, is [most fa]vorable for landing the detachment, is directly [ ] to the large White house belonging to Colo. Morris, in [which] it is said Genl. Musgrove Quarters. The place I mean i[s] a hollow, a little above the redoubts we built upon the eminences, or little Knowles West and Southerly of the abo[ve] [House, about] five or 600 yards above the only house wch. [ ] the

heights on the bank of the No. River in all [ ] part of the Island when we were upon it, [which I beli]eve to be the case at this day.

[Fro]m hence I would proceed up that hollow if [ ] Barracks or Washing Womens Hutts in them, [le]ft of them if there are, till you gain the height; [then] proceed, leaving the common Post road on your [y]ou come within sight of what formerly was [ ] blue Bell tavern on which General Fox Quarters which is about 200 yards [from Fort] Knyhausen, and at least 6 or 700 from Fort George [on Laure]l hill. Fort Tryon in your then position, lyes [yards] back of the first work (Knyphausen) [which] the assaulting party must pass, as they will also [have] to do Barracks which lye between the two Forts [Knyphaus]en and Tryon.

Here it is, i. e. near the Bell Tavern the party [for Fort G]eorge Breaks of; and as it is the most impor[tant point] to us, and to which all others should in a manner [lead. Suffi]cient time should be allowed for the party desti[ned for the] attack of it, to advance; this being done, the [different p]arties move together in one Column with a [sufficient inter]val between, to mark distinctly the seperation, [that for] Fort Knyphausen (which is to be in Front) com[mencing the] attack, at which moment the other column [ ] off, leaves the Fort upon their right, and hastens [with as m]uch speed as is consistent with order, to Fort [George un]der the character of fugitives flying for Shel[ter being] cut off (they are to declare) from the other [fort,] for the alarm must reach the Troops in this [fort] before the party can get to it. stratagem there[fore ma]y be practiced, but is not to be relied on, to get [admitt]ance in the first instance. I am of opinion [if no al]arm is given before the Troops get to the point [of

debark]ation, that the enemy will have so little suspicion [of our] Troops being in their rear, that the Parties for [Forts] Knyphausen and Tryon may creep (first feeling [their w]ay by single Officers) within one hundred yards [of the f]ormer, if the night is dark, and lay concealed till [the att]ack begins seriously at Fort George, when both [parti]es are to rush forward to their respective objects. [The]se parties are to leave the blue Bell on their right.

It appears to me that a proper disposition [of] our force will be, one third for the attack of Fort George, another third for Forts Knyphausen and Tryon, (of which 2/3 for the former) and the remaining third to be held as a reserve, to support, bring off, or make prisoners, according to circumstances, or as near this as circumstances will admit.

To say decidely what ought [to be done in] case of partial success, is very d[ifficult and would] be equally imprudent, because the ci[rcumstances at] the moment, on the spot, might ful[ly alter a] distant previous view of matters [ ] but from my present conception of [I am of] opinion, that nothing less than fu[ll po]session of the two principal works, [Fort George and Fort] Knyphausen, can justify an attempt [on New York] or keep Troops on the Island, lest the[y] be cut off; unless Fort George should [ ] is a moral certainty of possessing [ ] case the danger cannot be great, as [ ] there are Boats, may be secured by th[ ] with the main.

If the two principal Works shou[ld be taken] not a moment should be lost in attempt[ing] Fort Charles at the bridge, by a stratagem [like] the one before mentioned, by a resolut[e push or] even assault, as it may be effected much [the same way when] the enemy are confused, and under the

[influence of] a panic, than afterwards, and may be of the [same im]portance to us.

The Artillery men are to be provided [with] Rockets, one of which, and no more, is to be fire[d, at the] Work that is carried, as the signal of success [ ] these, after the conflict is over, and order resto[red] as a further signal is to be fired distinctly [at minute] Intervals, to announce what Works are [carried.] Let Eight be the signal for Fort Knyphausen; [four for] Fort George; two for Fort Tryon, and one for each of the smaller Works; these several s[ignal guns] must be fired at an Interval of ten minutes each, that is between the Eight, the four, [and the two] and if all these Works are carried, or the [princi]pal ones, with either of the small ones, namely [that] at the bridge, or No. 8, as a means to announce [ ] an hour after firing the signal guns before [mentioned] Thirteen Cannon are to be discharged in regul[ar succes]sion, and after day light, every work in ou[r posses]ion is to hoist any other coloured handkerchief [ ] white, on a staff fixed in the Parapet; and upon the [firing] of three muskets regularly by any party on the [ ] each work so possessed, is to answer them by five m[usket shots]; these are to be the Signals of recognizance on, and off, the Island.

You must leave a guard with the Boats wch. must [not be brought] from the place of debarkation till the [ ]n, and authentic orders can be conveyed to [ ]rly movement up the River may give an [ ] guard on, or near the Water, and will [afford a] Retreat in case of disappointment much [ ]ous than it would be to the point of de[barkation wh]ich is known to every Officer and Soldier of [the detachme]nt, and easier attained, altho the distance

[ ] far it may be thought expedient to at[ ]ture of the Commanding Officer at Mor[ris' Whi]te House) you will consider; never for [ ] secondary objects are to yield to the pri[ncipal] and that it too often happens that by at[tempting a g]reat deal, little is performed, from the [ ] unforeseen obstacles that interrupt com[munic]ations; which depend upon time, nice dis[ ] in the executive Officers, and oftentimes upon [matters] which no human foresight can guard agt.

If you should be discovered by the Ships, or [have] Reason to suppose the Forts are apprised of [your move]ents, and inconsequence, the enterprise [is relinq]uished without attempting to pass the Ships [ ] to delay no time in Landing a Party on the [east] side of the River at Dobbs's ferry (Philips's wd. [ ] till better) and order them to proceed immediately up [the low]er Road towards Peekskill and Halt the supporting [column] which will be marching on that Road to Kings [Ferry.] In case you should pass the Ships undiscoverd, [but be] disappointed of your object afterwards, and are [obliged] to retreat to the Jersey shore with the loss of [your] Boats (which in that event are to be stove to [pieces] or Burnt) you are to send an Express (upon an [ ]sed horse) with as much expedition as possible [to Do]bbs's Ferry, thereto cross, that the supporting Troops [may] be halted and Counter marched, besides the no[tice th]us given, if the enemy should not cross over to [Fort] Lee, which is exceedingly improbable, a party [shoul]d March along the Margin of the River from [Fort] Lee, and make a large smoak at some prominent [poin]t, nearly opposite to Philips's.[28]

[28] The manuscript is badly mutilated. The words bracketed are supplied by inference, but are not to be considered authentic.

To MAJOR GENERAL BENJAMIN LINCOLN

Tarrytown, July 2, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have this moment received your favor, and have only to express to you my wish that you will cross as soon as possible and take possession of the Heights of Kings bridge so as to support the Duke de Lauzun and prevent the Enemy from attempting to cut him off by that way.

I shall be at Valentines Hill in Mile Square tomorrow Morng if practicable. I am &c.[29]

To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL

Head Quarters, Peekskill, July 2, 1781.

Dear Sir: I inform you in full confidence that an attempt is to be made this night by surprise upon the enemy's posts upon the North end of York Island. I move down with the remainder of the Army towards Kingsbridge and expect the French Troops will form a junction with me, or will be very near at hand to support me. In case of success I shall contrive you the most instantaneous intelligence upon which you will cause the Beacons and Alarm Guns to be fired, which are to be signals to the Governor to call out and march the Militia to my support, for I take it for granted the enemy will make every effort to regain their posts. I have already written to the Governor and have prepared him for this matter. But as he may not distinctly see or hear the signals you will dispatch an Express to him upon hearing from me. You will give notice to the parties stationed at the Beacons to set fire to them upon your firing some certain number of Cannon.

There were parties at the Beacons. If there are none now they should immediately be sent. I am &c.

[29] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

You will be pleased immediately to forward the inclosed to Genl. Knox.[30]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, Peekskill, July 2, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have recd your favor of the 29th. ulto. The arrangement which you have made for the periods of transportation of the heavy Stores from Philada. agrees perfectly with my Ideas of the matter, as I think we must be certainly able to determine ultimately upon our plan of operations, by the time they are to be in motion.

An enterprize, which I have long had in contemplation, will be executed in the course of this night, if Genl. Lincoln, who commands the operating party, finds the attack advisable upon reconnoitring the situation of the enemy, and he can do it by surprise. The enterprise is against the posts upon the North End of York Island. The remainder of the Army marched this morning towards Kingsbridge. Part of the French Troops were last night at Ridgebury and will be at Bedford this evening. They will, in the course of tomorrow, be at hand to support us should there be occasion. At the same time that the posts upon York Island are attempted, I have planned a surprise upon Delancey's Corps at Morrisania, which is to be executed by the Duke de Lauzun in conjunction with Sheldons Regt. and Waterbury's State Troops.

Should we succeed in the attempt upon the posts, every effort will be made to hold them, and your assistance will be materially necessary. I shall take the speediest method of communicating the event to Genl. Mcdougal at West point, who will fire the Alarm Guns and Beacons as signals for the

[30] In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

Governor, who will bring out the Militia to our support. You will therefore take it for granted that we have succeeded, if you see or hear the signals. You will, in such case [come] immediately down, leaving Colo. Stevens [to put] every thing in readiness to follow. I am &c.[31] [MS. H. S.]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Tarrytown, Monday, July 2, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

For the day Tomorrow { Brigadier General Huntington / Lieutenant Colonel Badlam / Major Trescott. / Inspector Starks Brigade.

No drum to beat without particular order.

Officers and Soldiers are to refresh themselves and be within call of their Arms which are for the present to be Stacked.

No person not belonging to the Army is to be permitted to pass through the Camp without being carried to the General or one of the field Officers of the day who will examine him or her very critically and suffer none to pass of suspicious Character or who does not give a satisfactory Account.

Peregrine Fitzhugh, Esqr, Lieutenant in the third regiment of Dragoons is appointed an Extra Aid de camp to the Commander in Chief and to be respected accordingly.

Major Platt will for the present do the duty of Aid to Major General Lord Stirling and is to be respected as such.

Peter Taulman Esqr., Lieutenant in late Colonel Spencer's Regiment is appointed Captain Lieutenant in the Corps of Sappers and Miners and is to be obeyed accordingly.

[31] In the writing of Tench Tilghman. The words in brackets are missing from the letter sent and have been supplied from the draft, which is also in the writing of Tilghman.

The Commander in Chief cannot but express his satisfaction at the good order and regularity with which this day's march has been executed.

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, Peekskill, July 2, 1781.

Sir: I have this Morng received your Excellency's Favr of last Evening. I think it will be very well for your Excellency to proceed Tomorrow to North Castle where you will continue untill you assemble your whole Force, unless you should hear from me within that Time. Being at North Castle will put you in a direct Rout to receive your Provisions from Crompond, and will be in a direct Way for your Troops to advance to White Plains, or any other Point below, as Circumstances shall appear to Demand.

Colo Hull, an active and very intelligent Officer, will have the Honor to deliver this to your Excellency; he is charged with my Instructions to the Duke de Lauzun; and being perfectly acquainted with our intended Movements and with the Scene of Operations, will give all the Aid in his Power to the Duke; this same Gentleman will be able to reply to any Queries your Excellency shall be pleased to put to him. With perfect Esteem etc.[32]

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, Valentine's Hill, July 3, 1781,
8 oClock at Evening.

Sir: Count Firchin[33] will do me the Favor to deliver this to your Excelly. The Operations of this Day are over, and I am

[32] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.
[33] Hans Axel, Comte de Fersen (Firchin), aid-de-camp to Rochambeau.

sorry to say that I have not had the Happiness to succeed to my Wishes, although I think very essential Benefit will Result to our future Operations from the opportunity I have had in a very full manner, to reconnoitre the Position and Works of the Enemy on the North End of York Island. The particular Events of the Day I shall do myself the Honour to communicate, when I have the Pleasure to join your Excellency.

The American Army, and the Legion of the Duke de Lauzun, will march to Tomorrow to White Plains; if it will be convenient to you, I shall be happy to receive your Excellency with your Troops at that Place on the Day after Tomorrow.

When I shall have an Opportunity to converse with your Excellency, I Conceive I shall be able to give you such Reasons for formg your Junctions at the White Plains in the first Instance, as will fully satisfy your Excellency of the Utility and fitness of the Position for commencing the Preparations for our concerted Operations of the Campaign. I have the Honor etc.[34]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Valentines Hill,
Tuesday, July 3, 1781.

Parole Lauzun. Countersigns D'Arrot, Dillon.

For the Day Tomorrow
- Major General Lord Stirling
- Lieutenant Colonel Gray
- Major Gibbs
- Inspector 1st Connecticut Brigade.

The Continental Troops will this Evening lay upon their Arms upon Valentine's hill in their usual order of Encampment.

[34] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

All detachments are immediately to join their respective Corps and the officers to take their command in the line; Colonel Scammell's detachment excepted.

The Duke de Lauzun and Brigadier General Waterbury will be pleased to place Picquets upon the roads leading from East Chester to Kingsbridge.

The Officers of the day will take care that proper Guards are posted upon the roads leading from our front and right flank to King's bridge being particularly attentive to the North river and roads leading from it.

The Commander in Chief takes the earliest opportunity of expressing his thanks to the Duke de Lauzun, His Officers and Men for the very Extraordinary Zeal manifested by them in the rapid performance of their march to join the American Army. And the General also takes occasion to thank the Officers and Men of the American Army for the Alacrity with which they have supported themselves under the fatiguing March of yesterday and last Night. The Troops who were engaged to day merit his particular Thanks.

The Army will march tomorrow morning at three o'clock. the General will beat at two, the Assemble at half after two, and it is hoped the March will commence punctually at three in order to avoid the heat of the day; the Route and order of March will be furnished by the Quarter Master General.

"At three o'clock this Morning I commenced my March with the Continental Army in order to cover the detached Troops and improve any advantage which might be gained by them; made a small halt at the New bridge over Croton abt. 9 Miles from Peekskill and another at the Church by Tarry Town till Dusk (9 Miles more) and compleated the remaining part of the March in the Night; arriving at Valentines Hill (at Mill square) about Sunrise. Our Baggage and Tents were left standing at the Camp at Peekskill.

"Being disappointed in both objects [the surprise of the works at the north end of York Island and the surprise of Delancey's corps] . . . I did not care to fatigue the Troops any more . . . suffered them to remain on the Arms while I spent a good part of the day in Reconnoitering the Enemys Works."—*Washington's Diary*, July 2 and 3, 1781.

Colonel Scammell's detachment will follow the American Column and serve as a Rear Guard to it.

The Camp Guards with the Addition of a Captain from each division will form the Advanced Guard to be commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Gray and form three hundred yards in the rear of the second line on the road by which the Army marches on the beating of the General.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Near Dobb's ferry,
Wednesday, July 4, 1781.

Parole Independence. Countersigns America, Glorious.

For the day Tomorrow
- Major General Lincoln
- Lieutenant Colonel Fernald
- Major Knapp
- Inspector 2d Connecticut brigade

The Commander in Chief wishes the Army to be persuaded that he is extremely pleased with the regularity and order with which the late movement was performed. He does not recollect to have seen a march where discipline was more strictly observed it afforded him the highest satisfaction never to have seen a straggler from the line of March, and he doubts not they would have exhibited the strongest proofs of patriotism and Bravery had not the Enemy withdrawn themselves at their Approach.

The General positively orders that any Cattle or horses that may have been brought off from near the Enemy's lines by volunteers or any other persons (except properly taken in action) shall be restored to the owners of whatever political Character they are; if the owners names are not known the Cattle to be delivered to the Commissary and the Horses to

the Quarter master, to be accounted for. It is Irksome to mention and even painful for the General to Reflect how disgraceful and derogatory it would be to the reputation of an Army who are the Assertors of Freedom as well as of the Rights of Humanity and of individuals should they ever be guilty of plundering in the minutest article.

The Quarter Master General will take particular care that no houses on the other side of the Wood and stream of Water on the left of the encampment are taken up for the officers of the American Army; all on that side are to be appropriated to the officers of the French Army.

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Camp near White Plains, July 4, 1781.

Sir: A few minutes after my arrival upon this ground I received your Excellency's favor of this morning. Were I to give way to the anxiety I feel to see the Union between your Army and that of mine I should request you to march tomorrow morning from North Castle, but when I consider the fatigue which your troops have undergone from their long and rapid marches at this very warm season, I am much inclined to wish you to give them one more day's rest in your present quarters and the more so, as there is now no real occasion for making an uncommon degree of haste. I shall however leave the matter intirely to your Excellency's determination, only wishing you to give me notice of your approach that I may have the happiness of meeting and conducting you to your Camp which will be about 4 Miles on this side the Village of White plains. I have the honor &c.[35]

[35] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Near Dobbs Ferry,
Thursday, July 5, 1781.

Parole Industry. Countersigns Activity, Attention.

For the Day Tomorrow
- Major General Howe.
- Lieutenant Colonel Hull.
- Major Keith.
- Inspector 1 Massachuetts brigade

The Hour for issuing the Parole and Countersigns and furnishing the Adjutant General with the daily orders will be Two o'clock: at this time the Commander in Chief expects that all the General Officers and the Heads of every Department will attend at Head Quarters if there are no particular reasons to prevent it, and when they are not, that they will send some persons to represent them; the General officer of the preceding day will then make his Report and he that is of the Day receive his instructions; he will also receive the Parole and Countersigns from the Commander in Chief and immediately give them to the Adjutant General, The General Officers, and Heads of Departments present; at other times they are to be had at the Adjutant General's office where Orders will be issued as usual.

The Regimental Quarter Masters will see that deep Vaults are immediately sunk in proper places and that the Vaults are surrounded with Bushes and covered with fresh Earth every morning.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry, July 6, 1781.

Sir: I do myself the honor to inform your Excellency that the Army marched from their Camp near Peekskill on the

morning of the 2d. without either Tents or Baggage, and reached Valentines Hill about four miles on this side Kings bridge a little after day light the morning following. Genl. Lincoln with a detachment of 800 Men fell down the North River in Boats, landed near Phillips's House before day light on the morning of the 3d. and took possession of the ground on this side Harlem River near where Fort Independance formerly stood. This movement was principally intended to support and favor an enterprize which I had projected against a corps of Refugees under the command of Colo. Delancey at Morrisania and other light troops without the bridge and which was to have been executed by the Duke de Lauzun with his own Legion, Colo. Sheldon's Regt. and a detachment of state troops of Connecticut under the Command of B. G. Waterbury. The Duke notwithstanding the heat of the day of the 2d. marched from Ridgebury in Connecticut and reached East Chester very early the next morning but upon his arrival there finding by the firing that Genl. Lincoln had been attacked and the alarm given he desisted from the further prosecution of his plan (which would only have been executed to any effect by surprize) and marched to the Generals support, who continued skirmishing with and endeavouring to draw the Enemy so far into the Country that the Duke might turn their right and cut them off from their Work on the east side of Harlem river and also prevent their repassing that River in Boats. Genl. Parsons had possessed the heights immediately commanding kingsbridge and could have prevented their escape by that passage every endeavor of this kind proved fruitless for I found upon going down myself to reconnoitre their situation that [all their force except very small parties of observation had retired to] York Island. This afforded Genl. Du Portail and myself the most favorable opportunity of perfectly

reconnoitring the Works upon the north end of the Island and making observations which may be of very great advantage in future.

Finding nothing further could be done, I returned the day before yesterday to this Ground where I expect to be joined this day by his Excellency the Count de Rochambeau who reached North Castle the 2d.

I cannot too warmly express the obligations I am under to the Count for the readiness with which he detached the Duke de Lauzun and for the rapidity with which he pushed the march of his main body that he might have been within supporting distance had any favorable stroke upon the Enemy below given us an opportunity of pursuing any advantage which might have been gained.

Genl. Lincoln had 5 or 6 men killed and about 30 wounded in his skirmish. I have the honor.[36]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES CLINTON

Head Quarters, Dobbs's Ferry, July 6, 1781.

Dear Sir: In my last Letter, I requested you to forward all the Continental Troops from the Northward to West Point

[36] In the writing of Peregrine Fitzhugh. The phrase in brackets in the draft, which is in the writing of Tench Tilghman, is in the writing of Washington.

"Marched and took a position a little to the left of Dobbes ferry, and Marked a Camp for the French Army upon our left. The Duke de Lauzen Marched to the White pln. and Waterbury to Horseneck.

"Visited the French Army, which had arrived at Northcastle.

"The French Army formed the junction with the American on the Grounds marked out. The Legion of Lauzen took a position advanced of the plains on Chitendons hill west of the River Brunx. This day also the Minister of France arrived in Camp from Philadelphia."—*Washington's Diary,* July 4, 5, and 6, 1781.

On July 6 Washington's headquarters were at Joseph Appleby's, on the crossroad from Dobbs Ferry to White Plains, about 3½ miles from the ferry. British spy reports placed him at Appleby's on the Sawmill Road, "2½ miles from Hammond's" (who was Lieut. Col. James Hammond or Hamman, of Westchester County militia). On July 7 Washington shifted his quarters to Thomas Tompkins's "2½ miles this side of Young's house, on the direct road," and on July 10 he was reported back at Hammond's.—Baker, *Itinerary of General Washington,* and Sparks.

by Detachment as soon as possible; some circumstances since having made an alteration in the Arrangements of the Army, such of the Troops as shall not have been sent off, before the receipt of this Letter you will be pleased to detain in Albany untill further Orders: Causing the whole of the regular force to be Assembled at that place, and held in the most perfect readiness for embarkation. Transports must also be previously provided, so that the Troops may sail from thence at the shortest Notice. I am &c.[37]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, near Dobbs Ferry, Friday, July 6, 1781.

Parole Lewis the sixteenth. Countersigns Luzerne, Rochambeau.

For the Day Tomorrow
- Major General Parsons
- Colonel Greaton
- Major Ashley
- Inspector 2d Massachusetts brigade

The Commander in Chief with pleasure embraces the earliest public opportunity of expressing his thanks to his Excellency the Count de Rochambeau for the unremitting Zeal with which he has prosecuted his March in order to form the long wished for junction between the French and American Forces. An Event which must afford the highest degree of pleasure to every friend of his Country and from which the Happiest Consequences are to be expected. The General entreats his Excellency the Count to Convey to the Officers and Soldiers under his immediate command the grateful sense he entertains of the Chearfulness with which they have per-

[37] In the writing of David Humphreys. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

formed so Long and Laborious a march at this extreme hot Season. The Regiment of Saintonge is entitled to peculiar acknowledgements for the Spirit with which they continued and Supported their March without one days Respite.

Dobb's ferry Guard to be relieved.

Lieutenant Colonel William S. Smith is Appointed Aid De Camp to the Commander in Chief and is to be respected accordingly.

To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL

Head Quarters, Near Dobb's Ferry, July 6, 1781.

Sir: The two new whale boats at Wapping's Creek, and the one at New-borough in the charge of Mr. Brooks Depty. Cloathier, are much wanted here; I wish you to send a party for them, have muffled Oars provided, and forward'd to King's ferry or Tarry Town, to the order of Majr. Darby. the party of Men that conduct the boats will return to West point, after delivering them to Majr. Darby. I am etc.[38] [H.L.]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters near Dobbs's Ferry, July 7, 1781.

Dear Sir: I wish to see you at Head Quarters as soon as possible. You can leave the Superintendence of the Laboratory preparations, without any Injury, to the Care of Your Officers, and come on directly. I have received your letter of 2d of

[38] In the writing of David Cobb.

On July 7 Humphreys wrote to Capt. John Pray that the three new whaleboats built at Wappings Creek under Henry Sheaf's superintendence should be used as guard boats. "Should they already be appropriated to any other service, they are notwithstanding to be taken for the before mentioned purpose and others to be substituted in their Room if necessary." Humphreys's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

July.[39] I shall consult with you on its Subject when you arrive. I am &c.[40]

To COLONEL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters near Dobbs's ferry, July 7, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have recd. your favr. of the 30th: ulto. I take it for granted that this letter will meet you upon your march from Morris Town. Should you not have advanced too far towards Kings ferry to turn off towards Dobbs's without much disadvantage you will be pleased to do it, and inform me of your arrival upon the West side, where you will remain 'till further orders. I believe I before mentioned my desire that you come incumbered with as little Baggage as possible. If I did not, I must now request it. While you halt at Dobbs's you will take the proper precautions for the security of your party and Baggage. I am &c.[41]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Near Dobbs Ferry,
Saturday, July 7, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

For the Day Tomorrow	Brigadier General Glover Colonel Putnam Major Morrel[42] Inspector 3d Massachusetts Brigade

No Sutler to harbour or entertain any persons (not belonging to the Army) without a pass but are to send them to the

[39] Requesting directions respecting moving the park of artillery, laboratory, and artificers from New Windsor and the stores forwarding from Philadelphia.

[40] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[41] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[42] Maj. Amos Morrill (Morrel), of the Second New Hampshire Regiment. He served to the close of the war.

officer of Police or commanding officer of the regiment or Corps they Suttle for who are to examine them and if they do not give a good account of themselves or if there is room to suppose them of suspicious Characters they are to send them to the General of the day for further examination.

Lieutenant Rogers[43] of the second Connecticut Regiment is appointed Aid de Camp to Brigadier General Huntington and to be respected accordingly.

A Fatigue party to parade tomorrow morning at Sunrise the officer commanding will receive his instructions from the Deputy Quarter master who will furnish him with tools.

Three Coopers to be sent this Evening to Commissary Irwin's[44] Quarters for a continuance.

Twenty Waggoners from the Line to be sent to the Quarter Master General's quarters this evening; the first and second Connecticut brigades will furnish four each, the other brigades three each.

To COLONEL ELISHA SHELDON

Head Quarters near Dobbs's ferry, July 7, 1781.

Sir: If you have not already withdrawn the Chain of Dragoons from the upper Road you will be pleased to do it, and establish a Chain from hence to Southington at the following places; two Dragoons at each: Bedford, Danbury, Woodbury, Southington. The French Hussars will be upon the Route from Harford Eastward. You may take, for this purpose, such Men as are not fully accoutred and equipped. I am &c.[45]

[43] Lieut Hezekiah Rogers. He was appointed captain in December, 1782; transferred to the Third Connecticut Regiment in January, 1783; served as aide to Huntington from July, 1781, to June, 1783; retained in Swift's Connecticut regiment in June, 1783; served to close of the war.

[44] Matthew Irvine (Irwin), Deputy Commissary of Issues.

[45] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry, Sunday, July 8, 1781.

Parole Paris. Countersigns Brest, Dunkirk.

For the Day tomorrow { Brigadier General Patterson / Colonel Henry Jackson / Major Prior[46] / Inspector Stark's brigade

For the working party Colonel Greaton, Major Oliver.

The Surgeons who have not yet been furnished with Lint and Bandages will please to apply for them at the Flying hospital one mile in the rear of Head Quarters.

Lieutenant Thomas T. Jackson[47] of Colonel Sheldon's dragoons is appointed Aid de Camp to Major General Lord Stirling and is to be respected accordingly.

The following officers are appointed to do the regimental Staff duty in the Fifth Connecticut regiment vizt. Lieutenant Aaron Benjamin,[48] Adjutant from 1st. January 1781 Lieutenant Ezra Lee,[49] Paymaster from 22d February 1781. Lieutenant Reuben Anderson,[50] Quarter master from 1st. June 1781, and are to be obeyed accordingly.

A Working party under the command of a Colonel and Major to parade tomorrow morning at eight o'clock on the Grand Parade with their arms and packs; to march to Dobbs

[46] Maj. Abner William Prior, of the First Connecticut Regiment. He was transferred to the Fourth Connecticut Regiment in January, 1781, and resigned in December, 1781.

[47] Lieut. Thomas Tredwell Jackson, of the Second Continental Dragoons. He was aide to Lord Stirling, with the rank of major, from July, 1781, to January, 1783.

[48] Of the Eighth Connecticut Regiment. He was transferred to the Fifth Connecticut Regiment in January, 1781; served as regimental adjutant of the Fifth Connecticut Regiment from July, 1781, to January, 1783; served to November, 1783.

[49] Paymaster of the Fifth Connecticut Regiment until he retired in June, 1782.

[50] Lieut. Thomas (Reuben) Anderson. He resigned in December, 1782.

ferry there to erect such Fortifications as Lieutenant Colonel Gouvion (who will attend as Engineer) shall point out.

An accurate Return of the number of recruits that have joined the several State lines and the Artillery between the first of June and first of July 1781 to be given in at the Adjutant General's office on Tuesday next specifying what number of them has been rejected as unfit for service.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters near Dobbs's Ferry, July 8, 1781.

Sir: I have received your several Favors of the 18th. and 24th. ulto, and am obliged by the Assiduity with which you have attended to the Business committed to your Care. I hope the Exertions of the States may prove equal to your Expectations, founded on the good Disposition which you say is generally prevailing, to give us all the Support in their Power.

I feel myself however at a Loss to Account for the Silence of the Governor of Massachusetts, not having had a Word from him since the Letters I had the Honor to address to him from Weathersfield, dated the 24th. May, nor to several others of Later Date which have been Written to him on Business of great Importance; add to this, I have a Letter from Genl Fellows of Berkshire, dated 2d. of this Month, in answer to my Request that he would Order the Militia expected from the two Western Counties to be sent to Albany, in which he says that "no Orders had then been given for Detaching any Militia;" from this last Circumstance, I fully join with you in my Fears that the Militia of that State will not be raised by the Time, I hoped to have received them.

I hope the States are fully impressed with an Idea of the absolute *Punctuality* which will be expected from them in the

Article of Provisions and other Supplies requested for the Use of the Army. *Rum* is become an Article of great Necessity; almost none is now with the Army.

I have moved our little Army so near the Enemy as to this Place; where I shall hope soon to collect the whole Force we expect, that we may be enabled to commence our Operations as early as possible. You will therefore on Receipt of this immediately come on to join the Army; in doing wch you will please to take your Rout thro' the States of Rhode Island and Connecticut in such Manner as that you may collect the best and most critical Information of what is doing in each to fulfill the Requisitions made to him; you will also be pleased to make carefull Enquiry on the Roads, and find the Situation and Progress of all such Supplies as are actually on the Communication, coming to the Army, and Use every Effort in your Power that every Article may be hastened on with all possible Expedition. With much Regard etc.[51] [MS. H. S.]

TO THE CONTINENTAL NAVY BOARD, EASTERN DEPARTMENT

Head Quarters near Dobbs's ferry, July 8, 1781.

Gentlemen: I have been honored with your Favr. of the 23d ulto and feel myself much obliged by the Readiness with which you have complied to, or rather anticipated my Requests for Cannon and Powder. You will be pleased to rest assured of the return of the Cannon as soon as they can be spared from our Operations. If any more Powder should be in your Power, it is very probable we shall be glad to receive a further Quantity. With much Regard etc.[52]

[51] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[52] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To PRESIDENT MESHECH WEARE

Head Quarters near Dobbs's Ferry, July 8, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have been informed by Colonel Dearborn and some others, that the State of New Hampshire has procured and put up the greater part of the salted Provisions required by Congress of that State for the use of the Army. Altho I have been so unfortunate as not to have received any exact account or official Return of the quantity that may be expected from thence, yet I will presume upon a considerable supply, as the exertions of the State seem principally to have been confined to that Article. Not more than thirty fat Cattle having been received from your State since the close of last Campaign.

It has now become extremely important that all these salted Provisions (except those on the Connecticut River) should be forwarded as expeditiously as possible to some place within reach of the Army. As it is impracticable to have this speedily effected by land transportation; I must therefore entreat most earnestly that you will be pleased to have Transports provided, and send on the whole of the aforesaid salted meat by Water to Providence in the State of Rhode Island. Let me impress upon you the necessity of this business, of giving every necessary in- should be deposited at Providence in the charge of the Com- ter Master of the State, and taking every possible precaution to prevent its falling into the hands of the Enemy. The provision should be deposited at Providence in the charge of the Commissy. of Issues, State Agent, or some careful Person who must be accountable for it. I wish all the Rum which has been purchased by the State for the Continent may be forwarded in the same manner and to the same place.

The french Army has now formed a junction with us. We have advanced to this place; suffer me to add, that we must

depend upon the exertions of the eastern States to furnish the supply of Beef Cattle, that has been called for, in order to enable us to keep the field.

I think it will be adviseable, to transport the Provisions and Rum, in small swift sailing Coasters, the chance of loss by capture will not be so great. The matter ought also to be kept as much a secret as may be.

I shall anxiously expect your answer by the earliest Opportunity. I have the honor etc.[53] [N.H.H.S.]

To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

Head Quarters near Dobbs's ferry, July 8, 1781.

Sir: I have not been honored with an answer to my several letters of the 24th. and 25th of May and of the 2d. 4th. 15th. and 25th. of last Month, and am of course unable to form any certain estimate of what may be expected in consequence of my requisitions. This puts me in rather an awkward situation, as I cannot give His Excellency Count Rochambeau, who has formed a junction with me, that official assurance of support which I had promised upon the faith of the States, when I had an interview with him at Weathersfield. It is true General Heath has given me general information of the steps which have been taken to raise Men and supplies and which appear energetic and liberal, but still I cannot with propriety expose those letters to public view.

In my Letter of the 25th. of June I informed your Excellency that I had written to General Fellows to forward 600 Militia from the Counties of Hampshire and Berkshire to Albany. By an answer from him of the 1st Inst. I find that he is out of Commission and that no order for Militia had then been given. I

[53] In the writing of David Humphreys.

however hope your Excellency will upon the Receipt of my Letter have dispatched the necessary orders, as, depending upon the Militia, I have called down the Continental troops. I am etc.[54]

*To THEODORICK BLAND

Head Qrs. near Dobbes Ferry, July 8, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have to acknowledge and thank you for your obliging favor of the 2d.; your former (not with me at this time) has also been received. I fervently wish, that Congress 'ere this, may have recd. official Accts. of the taking of 96 and Augusta; these, with the preceeding events in that quarter, must, I should think, if proper pains are taken to communicate them to the Court of France, and the Mediating powers, have a very happy effect in the expected Negotiation of Peace.

I derivd much satisfaction from Colo. Carys acct. of the Spirit and temper of our Country men, and rejoice to hear that so few of them have joined the enemy. Would to God they could rise as one Man, and extirpate Lord Cornwallis and his whole Band. I wish the aid of Congress to my request for a Corps of Riflemen may bring them to me, and in time; they would be of infinite Service to me, as I have already experienced in the little affair on the third, when the fire from the Hessian Yagers (with Rifles) did us all the damage we sustained.

The French Army formed its junction with me at this place on the 6th.; I am about establishing a Communication at Dobbs' Ferry with a view of shortning my transportation from Pensylvania. It is with much pain and mortification I inform you that the recruits for the regular Battalions come in very slow, that I begin to despr., not only of seeing them full, but even respectable, and what dependence is to be placed in

[54] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

my requisition for Militia I am unable, at this moment, to form an opinion.

Tho' last in order, it was first in my mind, to thank you, (and I do it with every sentiment of gratitude) for your polite attention to Mrs. Washington, who will require, if circumstances should not permit her to return to Virginia your civilities. Be so good as to present my best respects and wishes to Mrs. Bland and be assured that I am etc. [V. S. L.]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry,
Monday, July 9, 1781.

Parole Providence. Countersigns Newport, Hartford.

For the day tomorrow
- Brigadier General Huntington
- Colonel Swift
- For Picquet Major Trescot
- Inspector 1st. Connecticut brigade

The Guards and Picquets in front and on the Flanks of the army are not to suffer any person on any pretence whatsoever to pass them into Camp.

If any person appears at either of the abovementioned Guards or Picquets, on pretence of business he or she are to be detained and the Letter or verbal Message the person is Charged with communicated at Head Quarters.

No Person whatsoever is to be allowed to pass out of Camp in front or on the Flanks of the Army without a pass from the Commander in Chief or the General officer of the day.

The Picquets No. 5, 6, 7, and 8 to be commanded by a Major, Who will post a Captain and thirty men at No. 5, a Sub and twenty at No. 6. a Sub and Twenty at No. 7. and a Captain and thirty at No. 8 on the Left.

The Regiment on the left in the second Line will take Post on the Hills in the rear of the Picquet No. 7.

Colonel M. Jackson, Lieutenant Colonel Brooks and Major Throop will repair immediately to West point and take command in the Detachment under General McDougall.

Captain Hasfield White[55] of the fifth Massachusett's Regiment is appointed Deputy Waggon Master and is to be respected accordingly.

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters near Dobbs's ferry, July 9, 1781.

Gentlemen: I have been honored with your favors of the 26th. ulto. and 3d. Inst. the Resolve of Congress to which you refer in the last was not inclosed, but I have received the original from the president. Give me leave to thank you for the attention which you promise to pay to my wants. It is necessary you should be informed, that besides the Articles which it will be in your power to procure and forward from Philada. some specie will be requisite to purchase Country produce; paper money, especially in this quarter, having become intirely useless. You will oblige me by forwarding, as soon as possible, a Hhd or two of Red Wine. Our Allies, with whom we have formed a junction, prefer it at this season to Madeira.

I think you will find, by referring to the Returns which have been heretofore made, that Von Heers Corps have been considered as part of the quota of Pennsylvania. But it will be improper to permit them to count upon them any longer, because the term of their service expires in a very short time. It is true that several of them have been found to be deserters, but as they were inlisted within the State, they passed as part of

[55] Capt. Haffield (Hatsfield) White. He retired in January.

their quota of it. This has been the case in all the States. These men or so many of them as have been credited to the state are justly intitled by their faithful services to have their depreciation made up in common with the other troops.

I have, since beginning this letter, received your favr. of the 3d. inst. inclosing the Memorial of the Captains and subalterns of the Regt. late procters against the promotions in consequence of Colo. procters resignation. In answer to this, I shall only shortly observe, that previous to the Resolve of Congress of the 25th. of May which has no retrospect. The Officers of the 4 Regiments of Artillery and 4 Regiments of Cavalry rose lineally to the Rank of Field Officers and Regimentally to Captains. And that Colo. procters Resignation having happened previous to the 25th. of May, all promotions in those Corps, up to that date must necessarily be in the mode which had been constantly before practiced under. It is but very lately that I gave the Officers of the Regiment in question a full answer, thro.' His Excellency President Reed, to their objections on the same subject. The Resolve for supplying my Table came inclosed in your last.[56] I have the honor etc.

P. S. I have recd yours of the 5th. inclosing letters from two Chaplains of the German Regts. on the subject of their exchanges. I beg leave to inform you that at a meeting of Commissioners last year at Amboy it was stipulated that all Gentlemen of that Function should be mutually released and that they should not be subjects of capture in future. You will therefore signify this to Colo. Wood and desire him to permit not only them but any others to go to New York.[57]

[56] On July 2 Congress directed the Board of War to take order for furnishing the table of the Commander in Chief. The regulations adopted by the Board on July 3 are in the *Washington Papers*.

[57] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To JOHN SULLIVAN

Head Quarters near Dobbs's ferry, July 9, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have been honord with your Favor of the 2d instant, and have to give you my sincere Thanks for your kind wishes and Offers to do all in your Power to forward our intended Operations.

I could wish your Stay in Congress might be continued longer than you intimate, as your Efforts there, from your Knowledge of Military matters, might be of essential Service to our Designs.

The Army is now drawn near to the Enemy. The Junction with our French Allies is formed. I wish I may not be detained, by waitg the expected Reinforcements of Men and Supplies from the several States, from commencing our Operations before the Season is too far advanced.

The Resolutions of Congress augmenting the Powers of Courts Martial, which are mentioned in your Letter, have not yet reached me.

I most sincerely congratulate you, on the favorable Turn, our Affairs seem to be takg at the Southward. I hope our Enemies will soon, have little to boast of in that Quarter. I am etc.[58]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES CLINTON

Head Quarters near Dobbs's Ferry, July 9, 1781.

Dear Sir: I am favour'd with yours of the 6th. In consequence of my letter of the same date, the 2d. Regt. will be detain'd at Albany 'till further orders. Genl. Schuyler is building a number of Flat Boats for the public; so many of them as are ready

[58] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

when that Regt. is order'd down may be man'd by the Troops, and the Boats loaded with plank or such other materials as may be procur'd.

Orders have been already lodg'd with the Eastern Agents to forward a proportion of Beef Cattle for the Troops to the Northward, but I do not wonder that you have receiv'd none yet, as few or none have been sent to this Army; I will however give directions to the Commissy. General to renew his orders upon that Head, and to take the speediest measures in his power for an immediate supply.

I can give no contenance to any Cartel which may have been settled between the people of Vermont and the Governor of Canada, and so I lately verbally inform'd Mr. Chittenden by an Officer sent down by him to me. I wish there may not be other business transacted, under the cover of Flags from Vermont to Canada, besides the exchange of prisoners. I am &c.[59] [M.L.]

To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL

Head Quarters near Dobbs's ferry, July 9, 1781.

Sir: In Consequence of my Orders, some of the Troops from the Northern Frontier will soon arrive at West Point; all that arrive at that Post you will be pleased to retain for its Security untill further Orders. I am &c.[60]

To LIEUTENANT PETER SUMMERS

Head Quarters near Dobbs ferry, July 9, 1781.

Sir: I have recd. yours of the 19th. of June. Previous to the acceptation of your Resignation you must lodge Certificates from the pay Master General and Auditor of Accounts that you

[59] In the writing of David Cobb.
[60] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

have no public money charged against you, and you must obtain an approbation of dismission from the Colonel or commanding Officer of the Regt. to which you belong. I am &c.[61]

To PHILIP SCHUYLER

Head Quarters near Dobbs's ferry, July 9, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have received your several Favors of the 1st. 3rd. and 6th. instant.

Colo Pickering has just informed me, that a Quantity of Nails and Oakum, with ½ Ton of Nail Rods have left Fishkill on the 2d. inst. which must be arrived to you before this; he further informs that he has given Orders Yesterday for another supply of smaller Nails and a Quantity of Oakum and Junk to be sent immediately from Fishkill, where it had arrived from the Southward; from which two Orders he says you will be abundantly furnished agreable to your own Estimates.

Three Hogsheads Rum are ordered to be sent to your Direction, from the Comy Genl of Issues, which will Arrive as soon as they can be got forward.

I think the number of Boats already ordered, will be sufficient. I would not wish you to procure any More to be built; those that are buildg I would have Lined within side, that they may be strong and capable of bearing considerable Weight without Injury.

I informed you in my last, the Measures I had taken to obtain Payment to enable you to fulfil your Engagements and I have a good Hope that I shall succeed with Congress, or Mr. Morris.

The Troops of this State being ordered to remain at Albany and above, for some Time longer, there will be no difficulty in

[61] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

getting down the Boats; those Troops will be able to take them Down the River, when they come on to the Army.

I approve much your procuring a Quantity of Timber for Bridges; the Timber may come on without framing; the Work and Construction may be done on the Spot, as they may be found to be needed. The Timber, with Plank for Bridges, may come in the Boats, and will be very useful and necessary. I am &c.[62]

To COLONEL CHARLES PETTIT

Head Quarters near Dobbs ferry, July 9, 1781.

Dear Sir: The Army having been for some time past in motion has been the reason of my not sooner acknowledging the receipt of your favor of the 23d. ulto. The motives on which you quit the service are not only justifiable but honorable, as I think it praise worthy in a Citizen to resign a place which he finds no longer of public utility. Your attention to the business of your station I have always heard much commended, and I shall ever esteem myself under obligations to you for the many acts of civility which I have personally experienced from you. I am etc.[63]

To GEORGE PLATER AND WILLIAM BRUFF[64]

Head Quarters near Dobbs's Ferry, July 9, 1781.

Gentlemen: I am honoured with your favour of the 27th Ulto. As the troops of Maryland compose part of the southern Army now under the immediate command of Major Genl. Greene, I [think there wd. be an impropriety] (as it may inter-

[62] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[63] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[64] President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Delegates, respectively, of Maryland.

fere with the arrangements of that Army) to give General Smallwood directions to remain in Maryland for the purposes you mention; [but if his doing this is not incompatible with the orders or views of Genl. Greene, I have no objection to his remaining in that State till application can be made to Genl. Greene who] I make no doubt will acquiesce in a measure which seems calculated for the public good, if General Smallwood's service with the Army can be dispensed with. I have the Honor etc.[65] [MD.H.S.]

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Head Quarters near Dobbs's Ferry, July 10, 1781.

Dear Sir: In consequence of a request from me to Mr. Lowrey; that he would continue to purchase and forward Flour to the utmost extent of his Commission, he informs me that he has compleated the purchase of 2000 Barrels and that he has began upon that of 1000 more; but of this he desires me to give you notice; Meaning I suppose that you may put a stop to it, if it should not meet your approbation. I have the honor &c.[66]

To MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR ST. CLAIR

Head Quarters near Dobbs's ferry, July 10, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have been favd. with yours of the 24th. ulto. and 4th. Inst. I am pleased to find by the first that the Assembly of Pennsylvania have at length passed a law which seems likely to procure the number of Men voted.

You certainly misunderstood me when you was at New Windsor if you conceived it was my intention that you should

[65] In the writing of Peregrine Fitzhugh. The portions in brackets in the draft are in the writing of Washington, and his spelling, etc., are followed.

[66] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

serve this Campaign with the Army in this quarter. I at that time foresaw the difficulty there would be in providing commands for the General Officers who were already here and which I have only been enabled to do by appointing General Heath and Lord Stirling to the command of Wings, which are in fact no more than Divisions, and which also have their Majors General attached to them. There would be an indelicacy, as you very justly observe, in sending you to Virginia at present, because you must necessarily supersede the Marquis de la Fayette who has had much trouble, and who appears to be just now reaping the fruits of his labour. I can therefore only advise you to remain in Pennsylvania a while longer, where you may be very usefully employed in forwarding the Levies under the new Law, and will at the same time have an opportunity of attending to Mrs. St. Clair, whose situation I sincerely lament. Should General Greene come into Virginia, the difficulty would cease and you might go there at once, without any inconvenience. Believe me to be &c.[67]

To GOVERNOR THOMAS SIM LEE

Head Quarters near Dobb's ferry, July 10, 1781.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellencys favor of the 29th. June. It is with very great satisfaction I observe the proceedings of the General Assembly of your state which you have been pleased to communicate to me. The exertions of that Legislature have heretofore been laudable and I am exceeding glad to see the same spirit still prevailing. For my own part I have not a doubt but that if the states were to exert themselves with that spirit and vigor which might reasonably be expected at this favorable period they might not only

[67] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

drive from the Continent the remains of the british force now among us but obtain to themselves their Independance with the enjoyment of Peace Liberty and happiness to their numerous Inhabitants, an event which you will be assured I most ardently wish. I have the honor etc.[68] [MD.H.S.]

To SAMUEL LOUDON

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry, July 10, 1781.

Sir: For the Benefit of the Army, and the Encouragement of the Inhabitants, you will be pleased to publish the inclosed Proclamation in your useful Paper. I am etc.

PROCLAMATION

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry, July 10, 1781.

Be it known: That Every Day, during the Time the Army remains in its present Position, from Day Break till Noon, Two Markett Places will be open for the Supply of the Army. One near His Excellency's Head Quarters, in the Field just back of the House, and near the Quarters of the Adjutant and Quarter Masters General. The other in the French Camp, near the House of Henry Taylor, which is the Head Quarters of His Excellency the Count de Rochambeau. All Persons, who will bring any Articles of Provisions and Small Supplies for the Use of the Army, may Depend on being protected in their Persons and Property, and shall have full and free Liberty to dispose of their Produce, without Molestation or Imposition, and will receive no Hindrance from the Guards of the Army on their passing to or repassing from the Sd Markett Places. No Person will be permitted to take any Article, without the full Consent of the Owner. It is expected however and will be required that every Person on his or her first coming to the above Markets will be furnished with a Certificate of Recommendation shewg their Attachment to the American Cause and Interest, signed by two civil Magistrates, or two other reputable Persons of known and Approved Characters: that no

[68] In the writing of Peregrine Fitzhugh.

Injury may arrive to the Army from the Arts of Designing and evil minded Persons.

If the Army should take a different Position, other Places will be named, where the like Liberty and Protection will be given.[69]

To JOSEPH JONES

Head Qrs. near Dobbs' Ferry, July 10, 1781.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 20 Ulto. by Post, came to my hands the evening before I marched for this part of the Country. The attention necessary to these kind of movements occupy all ones time, and must plead my excuse for not answering your favor sooner. I question now, whether I shall be able to write so satisfactorily as I could wish, or as *you* may expect.

I thank you for the promise of writing to Colo. R. H. Lee, and if your letter to him should not have been dispatched, you would add to the obligation by doing it fully, as it will not be in my power to write so much in detail as I could wish, shortly; You must be much unacquainted with the true state of Sheldon's Regiment, and the Marischausi Corps when you apply to have them sent to the Southward; the first is yet to raise, and the last is about to disband; and besides, is very deficient in Horses, without a State to adopt them, or the means of purchasing. Sheldon has but 60 Horses in all, and only 25 of these accoutred. To the State of Connecticut he looks up for the rest. These Horses are to perform the Ordinary duties of Expresses, Patroles, and the ordinary duties of the Field; while the Marischausi Corps consists of no more than abt. 40 men and half that No. of Horses; 12 of which are with me, and from the smallness of the number are continually on duty, carrying

[69] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. This same letter was sent with a copy of the text of the Proclamation to [Ebenezer] Watson, at Hartford; [Thomas] Green, at New Haven, and [Isaac] Collins, at Chatham, N. J. Watson, however, had died in 1777, and his newspaper in 1781 was published by Barzillai Hudson and George Goodwin.

orders to one part and another of the Camp. Judge you therefore of the impracticability of deriving succour from either of these Corps. Why Moylan's Dragoons are with-held from that Service, you must be better informed of than I am.

The complaints against the Baron de Steuben are not more distressing than unexpected, for I always viewed him in the light of a good officer. If he has formed a junction with the Marquis, he will be no longer Master of his own conduct, of course the clamous against him will cease with his command; from General Greenes Letters I had little doubt but that he would have been in Virginia ere this, powerful causes may have detained him; but I am persuaded he will be there as soon as possible, as it is within his command, and now the principle theatre of action. In the mean while I am affraid to give any order in that quarter lest it should clash with his views, and produce confusion. I shall however write fully to him in the course of a few days upon the several matters contained in your letter, and till his arrival, it is my opinion, the command of the Troops in that State cannot be in better hands than the Marquiss. He possesses uncommon Military talents, is of a quick and sound judgment, persevering, and enterprizing without rashness, and besides these, he is of a very conciliating temper and perfectly sober, which are qualities that rarely combine in the same person; and were I to add that, some men will gain as much experience in the course of three or 4 years, as some others will in ten or a dozen, you cannot deny the fact, and attack me upon that ground.

To relate facts, will be a sufficient expression of my mortified situation. A third of July is past! My former letters gave Congress a return of all the Recruits who had joined the army by the first of June. My present letter to them shows the number which have come in since. The Q. Master's and Commissary's departments must be supplied from these, or their business

must stand; No Militia are yet come in, though some were pressingly called for to strengthen West point and our Northern Front. that I might draw my Continental force as much as possible to a point; and other things drag on like a Cart without wheels; but as far as my exertions can go the operations of the campaign shall be hastened. My friends will make allowances. My enemy's will censure, and I shall have the consolation of knowing that my whole time and attention is devoted to the public service, however short I may fall of its expectation.

I have just received a letter from Colo. Laurens (at the Court of Versailles) with the inclosed intercepted Letters from the Minister (Lord Germaine), I persuade myself copies are transmitted to Congress; but as there is a possibility of miscarriage I transmit mine to be made use of as occasion requires, a publication of them with proper comments, would, undoubtedly, answer very valuable purposes. as the Ministers Sentiments respecting our Government &ca. &ca. are too obvious to be mistaken, and must be too alarming to those who are panting for the old constitutions, to be explained away or relished.

For a considerable time past I have had strong suspicions and uneasy moments on acct. of the People of Vermont. I have at different times been on the point of communicating them to Congress. but motives of delicacy have restrained me. Convinced I am that these people wd. become a formidable barrier if they were made a seperate State, equally convinced I am, that Neutrality is the most we have to expect from them if they are not. I do not enter into the justice of their claim, because I am unacquainted with the merits of it; tis to the expediency and policy only I speak; at present, that State gives protection, and is an asylem to all deserters; to every person who wishes to avoid taxation &ca. by which means their strength is augmented in proportion to our loss; and the manner in wch. they mean to apply it is very equivocal.

I have not since I have viewed the affairs of those people in the light here described, missed any opportunity of expressing my apprehensions to individual members of Congress who have passed through the Army; and this I thought was as far as I could with propriety go. I do not now believe that the people, as a body, have any evil intention, but I firmly believe that some of their leaders have, and that they will prevent us from deriving aid, though they may not be able to turn the Arms of their Countrymen against us.

I have this instant received your favor of the 3d. inclosing my old friend Carys[70] Narrative of the transactions in Virginia, I am happy to find such a spirit prevailing in the Country; and thank you for the perusal of his letters as they contain the fullest and most authentic accts. I have had from that quarter. I am etc.

P. S. I need not say that this letter is written in haste, the marks of it are too evident to require such a declaration.[71]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry,
Tuesday, July 10, 1781.

Parole Versailles. Countersigns Rochelle, Nantz.

For the day tomorrow
- Major General Lord Stirling
- Colonel Webb
- For Picquet Major Gibbs
- Inspector 2d Connecticut brigade

Two Field pieces in the Centre of the second line of the American Camp will be fired as a signal of Alarm in case the enemy should attempt to advance in force: the Troops

[70] Col. Archibald Cary. Jones requested Washington to burn Cary's narrative.
[71] The text is from a copy in the Toner Transcripts in the Library of Congress, stated to have been compared with the original, the whereabouts of which is not given.

thereupon will immediately form the Line of Battle in front of their respective encampments and be ready to receive orders or act as Circumstances may require.

The Quarter Master General of the American Army will endeavor to procure three intelligent well affected inhabitants acquainted with the Characters of the people in this part of the country to be stationed upon the roads leading into Camp and give passes to those who may be safely admitted.

All Officers holding Brevet or other Commissions and not attached to particular corps or serving in the families of General Officers are to be put upon the General Roster and to take their tour of duty.[72]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry, July 10, 1781.

Sir: I have to acknowledge the Honor done me in the Receipt of your Excellencys Favor of the 3d instant, covering the Resolutions of Congress of the 2d.

The Corps of Rifle Men, requested from the State of Pensylvania, I am anxious to obtain, as I am more and more sensible of the important Benefit we may derive from their Services in our Approach to New York.

Your Excellencys agreable Favor of the 6th, is also received, conveying very important Intelligence from the Southward.

I do myself the Honor to congratulate your Excellency and Congress, on the Happy Turn our Affairs seem to have taken in that Quarter. With great Respect etc.

P. S. Your Excellency's Favor of the 2d instant is also come to Hand before closing this Letter; the Article in the Capitula-

[72] On July 10 Washington wrote briefly to Lieut. John Townes, in reply to his request for a reconsideration of his court-martial sentence, referring him to General Greene, who will order a new trial, if he thinks the former illegal. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

tion of Pensacola, mentioned by your Excellency, appears very extraordinary, not to say alarming; but as it does not seem to come with proper Authenticity, I hope it may not prove to be true.[73]

Inclosed I send a Return of the Recruits which have joined the Army since my last. I have only to observe, that I am very sorry to find the Prospect of filling the Lines of the several States, is so unfavorable.

11th. By authentic information received since writing the foregoing, the Article of Capitulation for the Garrison of Pensacola, about which we have been in Doubt, is fully ascertained; some Part of those Troops being actually arrived at N York, and the remainder soon expected.[74]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry,
Wednesday, July 11, 1781.

Parole Northcastle. Countersigns Boston, Bedford.

MORNING ORDERS

Major General Lincoln is appointed General officer of this day, vice Major General Lord Stirling indisposed.

For the Day tomorrow
- Major General Howe
- Colonel Tupper
- For Picquet Major Knap
- Inspector 1 Massachusetts brigade

Returns of the number of shoes actually wanting in each Brigade regimentally digested, to be given in at the Adjutant General's Office tomorrow at orderly time.

[73] The British garrison at Pensacola, captured by Galvez's Spanish expedition, had been allowed to go to New York.

[74] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The letter was read in Congress on July 17 and on the 23d referred to John Mathews, John Sullivan, and James Madison.

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, July 11, 1781,
8 OClock P. M.

Sir: I have this moment received Intelligence from Kings bridge, that the Refugees have been impressing some Horses this day from the Inhabitants; this used to be commonly an indication of their making an incursion towards us. If they have any thing of the kind in view at present, it is, I am persuaded, a design to attack some of our Picquets, or drive off any Cattle which may be exposed to them. I have given the Guards Orders to use extraordinary Vigilance, and have thought it expedient to communicate the information, altho I do not imagine there is any thing very serious to be apprehended. I have the honor etc.[75]

To COMTE DE BARRAS

Head Quarters near Dobbs's Ferry, July 11, 1781.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's letters of the 24th. and 30th. June and 2d. Inst.

I observe by a late New York paper that your missing transport has been taken and carried into Hallifax.

The reinforcement which arrived at Charlestown, is not so considerable as was at first reported, it may perhaps amount to about 2000 Men. The ships of War which escorted this Convoy have arrived at New York. They are the Warwick of 50 Guns and Solebay Frigate.

I do myself the honor to inclose your Excellency the latest intelligence which I have received of the enemy's sea and land Force at New York. It comes through a Channel in which I place much confidence. I would only observe that if the Royal

[75] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

Oak has gone to Hallifax, one of the seven ships of the line said to be remaining at the Hook must be of 50 Guns. I have the honor etc.[76]

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM GREENE

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry, July 11, 1781.

Sir: On Delivery of this Letter it is probable the Count de Barras with the Squadron under his Comand, will have sailed from Newport on an Expedition of much importance. And as our Enemies may possibly think of Improving [*sic*] this Opportunity to strike some Blow upon the Stores of our Allies deposited in your State, I have to request from your Excellency, that for the security of the Transports, Stores &c you will be pleased to suffer the French Major of Artillery left with you to have the use of the heavy Cannon of your State, to be disposed of in such manner as he shall think most conducive to his Security on this Occasion.

I could Wish also (if it is not already done) that you will be pleased to establish some mode of communicating Signals by Beacons or other ways as you think best, to the adjacent Country so that in Case of Necessity, the Force of the Country in your and the adjoining States, on any Sudden Occasion, may be most expeditiously collected. I have the honor etc.[77]

To COLONEL CHARLES STEWART

Head Quarters, Dobb's ferry, July 11, 1781.

Sir: It is his Excellency's request that you will take immediate and effectual Measures, to have such a number of the Beef Cattle from the Eastern part of Connecticut and that part of

[76] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[77] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

Massachusetts contiguous to Rhode Island, furnished for the Militia Stationed at R Island, that they may not be under the necessity of consuming a single Barrel of salted Provision, if it can possibly be avoided.

The Salted Provision to be repacked (if necessary) and kept sacredly as a reserve in the Magazine where it now is.

All the Salted Beef, Pork and Fish near Connecticut River, is to be positively collected and deposited in Stores on the Water, so that it may be constantly removed in transports, whenever it shall become expedient and necessary. No more to be forwarded by land without explicit Orders for the purpose.

The General desires an exact Return of what quantity may be transported by Water, should be made as soon as possible, specifying the different places at which it is deposited.

The issuing Posts recommended by the Board of General Officers to be discontinued, are to be broken up without delay. I am &c.[78]

To MAJOR GENERAL BENJAMIN LINCOLN

Head Quarters, July 11, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have just been informed the Refugees have been impressing Horses today. If they have any design, it is against our Picquets. This hint will be sufficient to excite unusual vigilance. I am &c.[79]

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM GREENE

Head Quarters near Dobbs ferry, July 11, 1781.

Sir: I had the Honor to address your Excellency the 1st. instant, at which time I had heard Nothing from you since mine

[78] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D. Humphrys, A. D. C."
[79] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

of the 24th of May last. I have now to acknowledge the Receipt of your Favor of the 7th. June which came to Hand thro' the Channel of the southern Post.

I observe with Satisfaction, the Proceedings of your Legislature, respecting their Troops, Cloathing and Supplies, and most sincerely Hope the Execution of their Measures, may be equal to their Resolutions.

I am just informed from the Comy Genl of Issues that 50 Head of Cattle are lately arrived from your State; in Consequence, I suppose of the Contracts mentioned in your Excellencys Letter of the 7th Ultimo. Sensible of the Necessity of an additional Body of Militia for the Security of your State, more than those requested from you, I did in my Letter of [80] to Govr Hancock, request 500 Men to be sent from the State of Masstts. for your Assistance. That Body I hope are arrived before this Time. I have the Honor etc.[81]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobbs' Ferry,
Thursday, July 12, 1781.

Parole Normandy. Countersigns Toulon, Brest.

For the day tomorrow
- Major General Parsons
- Colonel Butler
- For Picquet Major Keith [82]
- Inspector 2d Massachusetts brigade

Untill further orders the Troops are constantly to be provided with three days allowance of baked bread and two days allowance of cooked beef.

[80] June 4, 1781, *q. v.*

[81] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[82] Maj. James Keith, of the Eighth Massachusetts Regiment. He retired in January, 1783.

Colonel Scammell's detachment is to be supplied occasionally with Ammunition by the regiments to which the men respectively belong, on Returns from Colonel Scammell or some Field officer of his Detachment.

The Clothier General will furnish Shoes agreeable to the Returns of deficiencies delivered this day: the regimental clothiers will apply tomorrow morning for their several Quota's at Commissary Irwin's Quarters where the Clothier's Stores now are.

To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL

Head Quarters, July 12, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have recd. your favr. of the 10th. You will be pleased to let me have, as quick as possible, a Return of the Troops at West Point and its dependencies, as I want to ascertain our total Strength.

If you will make me acquainted with the names of the prisoners under sentence, and the Regiments to which they belong, I will endeavour to find out the Judgments agt. them and either have them put in execution or have them released. I am &c.[83]

To MAJOR GENERAL SAMUEL HOLDEN PARSONS

Head Quarters near Dobbs ferry, July 12, 1781.

Sir: I have to request that you will be pleased to send one of your Aides de Camp, to give Orders to Brigadr Genl Waterbury from me, to put the whole of his Troops in Motion to morrow Morng. and to march them to Marineck or North Street; at one of which places, he will receive further Orders respecting the position he is to take.

[83] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

General Waterbury will move at the time appointed without fail and give Orders for the Baggage to follow as soon as may be; as the Corps cannot be of any service while it continues at such a distance as it is at present from the Army. I am &c.[84]

*To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, July 12, 1781.

Sir: Tomorrow Evening will answer very well for the movement I mentiond to your Excellency Yesterday, and I will arrange matters accordingly: 2000 French Troops besides Lauzens Legion with the Troops I shall order from the American line will be sufficient to make the reconnoitre without hazarding an Insult from the Enemy.

I shall have the honor of speaking more in detail to your Excellency on this subject between this and tomorrow. I am just setting out for Dobbs ferry. I have the honor etc.

To COLONEL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, July 12, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have recd. your favr. of this date. You will remain where you are 'till further orders, but you will make me an exact Return in the Morning of the force which you have brought with you.

However desirable a supply of Cloathing may be, I have no authority to allow it to be procured in the manner which Mr. Caldwell mentions.[85] I am etc.[86]

[84] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

[85] Caldwell's proposition was to bring out from New York City the clothing captured by the British in the Continental ship *Confederacy*. He proposed to pledge his own fortune for the same and desired the Commander in Chief's permit to Capt. Nathaniel Camp, at Newark.

[86] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To FRANÇOIS, MARQUIS DE BARBÉ MARBOIS

Head Quarters near Dobbs's ferry, July 13, 1781.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 9th., such of the letters as were for the officers of the french army have been delivered to them. Some under the same Packet were for the Minister and Mr. Holker, those I have returned by the same Express.

I cannot find that any packet will shortly sail either from New Port or from Boston I shall therefore send the European letters to Governor Hancock and request him to forward them by the first good private opportunity from Boston. I am much obliged by the communication of the intelligence from South Carolina. I fear that from the West Indies is without foundation as a Vessel in a short passage from Martinique to Boston brings a report that Count de Grasse had gone to Barbadoes but makes no mention of an engagement between the Fleets. I am &c.[87]

To FRANCISCO RENDON

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry, July 13, 1781.

Sir: I do myself the Honor to acknowledge the Receipt of your Agreable Favor of the 14th ulto, with the Invoice inclosed. I have also the pleasure to inform you pr this Conveyance, that the Articles mentioned in the Invoice, and which you have been so kind as to present to Mrs. Washington and me, are safely arrived. Be assured Sir, I receive with particular Satisfaction this Mark of your Attention and Politeness; and that it claims my most sincere Thanks.

[87] In the writing of Peregrine Fitzhugh. From a photostat of the original in the Biblio. Natl., Paris. Mss. Français, 12768.

I have not yet been honored with the particulars of the Subjection of Pensacola to the Arms of his Catholic Majesty; nor with the Terms of its Capitulation; as soon as these shall be within your Power, I am perswaded you will be pleased to give me a Copy. I am etc.[88]

To CHEVALIER DE CHASTELLUX

Head Quarters, July 13, 1781.

Sir: I am much obliged to you for apprehending and sending One of the Persons who caused the disturbance last night under Guard. He shall be confined and properly examined. Be assured, Sir, every measure shall be adopted to preserve good Order and prevent a repetition of the like outrages in future. With perfect respect etc.[89]

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Head Quarters near Dobbs's Ferry, July 13, 1781.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 2d. and 5th. Instant have afforded me infinite satisfaction, as the measures you are pursuing for subsisting the Army perfectly accord with my Ideas, and are, I am certain, the only ones which can secure us from distress or the constant apprehensions of it.[90]

Had Magazines of any consequence been formed in the different States, in pursuance of the late requisitions of Congress,

[88] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[89] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

[90] Morris wrote to Washington (July 5, 1781): "You will find enclosed herein the Copy of an Act of Congress of the 4th June whereby I am Vested with Powers to dispose of the Specific supplies required from the several States in such manner as with your Excellency's Advice, I may judge will best promote the Public interest and Answer the purposes of the present Campaign." Morris judged it best to convert such supplies as were on hand at the different depositories into cash (the cost of the transportation of the supplies being greater than their value) and to supply the Army by contract. Morris's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

the disposal of the Articles collected at a distance from the Army would have merited your attention, but so little has been done in that way, that I imagine you will not think the matter worthy of notice when I inform you of the trifling Quantity's which remain on hand. Of Flour, no Magazines have been formed at any place; Of salt Meat, none was put up in Pennsylvania, Jersey or New York. There had been, by estimate, seven or eight thousand barrels of Meat and Fish put up in Connecticut, of which between two and three thousand have come forward and the remainder is I believe in motion. Massachusetts put up very little salt Meat and most of it has been consumed upon the communication by the Recruits or transported to Albany. Rhode Island purchased 1000 Barrels, of which about 600 remain at Providence, and I would wish them to be still kept there for a particular purpose. I could never learn with certainty how much was put up in New Hampshire, but I have directed all that was at portsmouth to be transported by Water to Providence, as I wish to form a small Magazine of salt provision at that place, as I mentioned before, for a particular purpose. No Magazines of Rum have been formed, we have been in a manner destitute of that necessary Article, and what we are now likely to draw from the several States will be from hand to mouth. From the foregoing State of facts you will perceive in how small a degree the requisitions of Congress have been complied with, and may form a judgment of the miserable manner in which the Army has been subsisted.

Having lately, at the request of the Board of War, furnished them with my opinion of the Quantity of provision which ought to be laid up at the several posts, they will be able, at the interview which you propose to have with them, to lay before you my Ideas upon the subject of a Contract for supplying the Army.

I beg you to be assured that I never can think your correspondence tedious or troublesome. Duty as well as inclination will always prompt me to listen with pleasure to your observations upon the state of our public affairs, and I shall think myself happy if I can in any manner contribute to assist you in the arduous task you have undertaken.

I shall very anxiously wait for the Visit which you promise to make me. I am etc.

P. S. Will it be possible upon a sudden emergency to procure from 2000 to 2500 Barrels of Salt Beef or Pork at Philada? In such case what may be at providence or in New Hampshire may be disposed of and go towards payment of that in Philada. We have no news of the ship la Fayette; about 3000 Suits of Cloaths have arrived at Boston from Spain but unfortunately the Coats are scarlet.[91]

To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Head Quarters near Dobbs's ferry, July 13, 1781.

My dear Marquis: Since my last I have received your letters of the 10th. 18th. and 28th. of June. I sincerely congratulate you on the favorable turn of Affairs announced in your last, and I hope you will be enabled to maintain that superiority which you seem to be gaining over Lord Cornwallis. We had a variety of reports of General Greens further successes in south Carolina, by some we are told that both Augusta and Ninety six have fallen, but in a letter which I have just recd. from Monsr. Marbois, he says that Augusta has been taken and the siege of 96 raised.

Count de Rochambeau formed a junction with me at this Camp (about 12 Miles from Kings bridge) a few days ago.

[91] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

We are waiting for reinforcements for the Continental line and of Militia, and are in the mean time establishing our communication at Dobbs's Ferry.

I shall shortly have occasion to communicate matters of very great importance to you, so much so, that I shall send a confidential Officer on purpose to you. You will in the mean time endeavour to draw together as respectable a Body of Continental troops as you possibly can and take every measure to augment your Cavalry. Should the enemy confine themselves to the lower Country, you will no doubt pay attention to the formation of Magazines above. These will be in every case essential, whether the War continues in Virginia, or whether it will still be carried on in South Carolina.

Should General Greene come into Virginia in person you will be good enough to communicate the foregoing to him.

In the present situation of Affairs, it is of the utmost importance that a communication by a Chain of Expresses should be opened between this Army and that in Virginia. They are already established from hence to Philada. and if there are none from you to Philada. you will be pleased to take measures for having it done. You will also endeavour to establish such a communication with the Coast as to be able to know whether any troops are detached by sea from Lord Cornwallis's Army, for it is more than probable that if he finds himself baffled in over running Virginia he will take a strong post at portsmouth [or Williamsburg] and reinforce New York or south Carolina. Should any detachment be made you will transmit me the earliest intelligence. What you say in confidence of the conduct of a certain Officer shall be kept a profound secret, and I will contrive means of removing him from the quarter where he is so unpopular.[92]

[92] Baron Steuben.

The Rhode Island Regt. is so thinly officered that Colo. Olney wishes one of the subs of the light Company may be suffered to return when Capt. Olney joins. You will act in this as circumstances may permit.

You have the Compliments and good wishes of all your friends in the French Army. Those of the American are not behind hand with them. With the warmest affection etc.[93]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WATERBURY

Head Quarters near Dobbs' Ferry, July 13, 1781.

Sir: You will be pleased to take a position for the present somewhere on the left of the White Plains, towards Morineck, or the Sound, so as to keep up a communication with the Duke de Lauzun.

It is a standing General Order to have three days Bread and two days cooked Meat constantly on hand, to which you will immediately as far as possible, pointedly attend, and hold your Corps always in the most perfect readiness for a Movement. I am &c.

P. S. If you have heard any thing respecting the firing on the Sound yesterday, be so good as to communicate the news to me. If you have not, I wish you to send to the Sound and obtain it.[94]

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry, July 13, 1781.

Dear Sir: I am just now honored with your Excellencys Favor of the 8th instant informg me of the Offer of a Number of Volunteer Horse Men from your State.

[93] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

[94] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

I applaud Sir! this Spirit, which gives me much Pleasure in the Contemplation; the Gentlemen deserve my best Thanks for their Tenders of Service; which I beg leave to present them thro the Hands of your Excellency.

We are so much superior at present in Cavalry, by the Arrival of the Legion of Lauzun, a very good Corps under Colo Sheldon, that I have not Need of any more Troops of that Establishment, and it being also probable that the Gentlemen, in the Course of our Operations, may be very usefull, by joing some Body of Troops which it may be found expedient to form in your State; I think it not best to draw them on this Side of the River; but hope they will be so good as to reserve themselves for any Operations which may be found necessary to commence on your Side.

I will be obliged if your Excellency will be pleased to inform me of the Progress that is made under your late Law, in filling your Continental Battalions. I am anxious on this Head, as I view it an Object of the greatest Importance; an object which if compleated, would in a great Measure prevent the Necessity of Calling for other Assistance. I am &c.[95]

*INSTRUCTIONS FOR RECONNOITERING THE ENEMY'S POSTS AT THE NORTH END OF YORK ISLAND

Camp near Dobbs' Ferry, July 13, 1781.

His Excellency Count de Rochambeau will be pleased to order a detachment of 2000 French Soldiers exclusive of the legion of the Duke de Lauzen and have them in readiness to March at Eight o'clock this Evening.

[95]The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

He will order Eight pieces of Ordnance to this detachment; two of which are to be twelve pounders; two Howitzers; and the rest light field pieces.

Abt. Two thousand American Troops besides Sheldons Legn. are to parade and March at the same time; the whole are to be served with provisions for three days.

The Troops will March by the right and on the following roads: Sheldons legion and Scammels light Infantry on the North River Road; the rest of the American Troops on Saw Mill river Road.

The French Troops will commence their march in two Columns also; the right column, on what is called the sprain road; the left column on the Tuckahoe road.

At or near Valentine's in Mile Square, these two columns, and the left column of the American Troops will unite; the right column will continue to advance on the No. River Road for the security of our right flank; and the legion of Lauzen and any other Fh Troops Count de Rochambeau shall think proper to order, may advance by the way of Williams' bridge for the security of our left Flank.

[If the American Troops come to the point of junction first, they are to advance in open column till their rear has past it, that the French Troops may enter the road and follow them. But if the Head of the French column first arrives at this point, it will Halt till the American Troops pass, as they will have to form on the right.

At the Heights above Courtlandt and back of old Fort Independence, the Columns will seperate; the American (which will be on the right) will File off to the right and possess the ground in the rear of Courtlandt and fronting Kings Bridge; while the French Troops extend to the left upon the heights back of Fort Independence.

The light Troops under Scammel and Sheldon are to possess of Tippets Hill; and patrole to the North River, and have an eye to the Mouth of Spiten Devil.

The legion of Lauzen may extend towards the enemys post at No. 8, keeping out of the range of the shot from that redoubt; and may if circumstances will admit of it see the situation of things at Delancy's Mills which is an important Pass, the possession of which must cut off the retreat of such of Delancy's Corps as may be on the East side of the Brunx.

The Troops having taken this position, parties may be advanced, to the heights next to Harlem river, and videts posted to communicate intelligence of any movements they may discover of the enemy's while the reconnoitre is going on which may begin at the right, or on the left, as circumstances][96] at the time may point out.

Reconnoitre: will be the word of Recognizence to distinguish friends from Foes.

The Count de Rochambeau will be provided with Guides who are perfectly acquainted with the roads on which he is to advance and the communications between them and the Saw Mill river road.

To CAPTAIN BARTHOLOMEW VON HEER

Head Quarters Dobbs's Ferry, July 13, 1781.

Sir: You will march your Corps to join the Main Army near this place, immediately upon the receipt of this Order. I am &c.[97]

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[96] The portion in brackets is taken from the text printed in a sales catalogue in 1932. The rest is from a facsimile there reproduced.

[97] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry,
Friday, July 13, 1781.

Parole Portsmouth. Countersigns Augusta, Bolton.

For the Day Tomorrow
- Brigadier General Glover
- Lieutenant Colonel Sprout
- For Picquet Major Morrel
- Inspector from 3d Massachusetts brigade.

Captain Timothy Remick[98] of the first Massachusetts regiment is appointed to do the duty of Inspector of the first Massachusett's Brigade and is to be obeyed accordingly.

Captain Seth Drew[99] of the second Massachusetts regiment is appointed to do the duty of Inspector to the second Massachusett's Brigade and is to be respected and obeyed accordingly.

Captain Caleb Robinson[1] of the second New Hampshire Regiment is appointed to do the duty of Inspector to General Stark's Brigade vice Major Scott[2] resigned that office and is to be obeyed and respected accordingly.

A Surgeon from the third Massachusetts Brigade will this day relieve the one on command with Colonel Scammel.

A Surgeon from each Brigade will attend at the Flying Hospital tomorrow morning at eleven o'clock to receive a set of Capital Instruments for the use of the Brigade.

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[98] He served to November, 1783.

[99] He was appointed major of the Third Massachusetts Regiment in January, 1783, and served to June 1783.

[1] Of the Second Massachusetts Regiment. He was appointed major of the Second New Hampshire Regiment in October, 1781, and retired in March, 1782.

[2] Maj. William Scott, of the First New Hampshire Regiment. He had been wounded and taken prisoner at Stillwater in September, 1777, and had retired in January, 1781.

To LORD STIRLING

Head Quarters near Dobbs's Ferry, July 14, 1781.

My Lord: While I am with the detachment of the Army below, you will remain in command here. Your principal attention will be paid to the good order of the Camp and the security of the Baggage and Stores left in it. There will be no need of advanced pickets, as you will be fully covered in front. The Camp Guards should be vigilant and the officers commanding them see that the Men are not permitted to straggle or to plunder the Baggage of the officers and Soldiers.

The greatest harmony having hitherto subsisted between the French and American Soldiers, Your Lordship will be particularly careful to see that it is not interrupted by any act of imprudence on our part. And as Major General The Baron Viominel who will command the French Line is older in Commission than Your Lordship, you will take the parole and Countersign from him daily.

It is scarcely probable that the Enemy will make any attempt upon the Camp while so respectable a force is near their own Lines, should they do it, it must be by Water. The Officer commanding the Water Guard will communicate any movement to Colo. Greaton[3] at Dobbs's Ferry who will give immediate intelligence to you, which you will of course transmit to Baron Viominel.

The party at Dobbs's Ferry being for the purpose of erecting a Work there, They are not to be Withdrawn for Camp duties.[4]

[N. Y. H. S.]

[3] Col. John Greaton. Washington wrote to him, this day (July 14), requesting that any intelligence of the enemy's movements he received he would transmit "with all possible dispatch to Lord Stirling." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

[4] In the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES CLINTON

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry, July 14, 1781.

Sir: I have received your Letter of the 10th. I am very sorry to hear the Disturbance which has taken place in the 1st. Regt. especially as the P M Genl had just sent on a Sum of Money for the Pay of your Brigade; unluckily it seems to have missed them. On Receipt of their Money, this Murmur I hope will be quieted.

So long as the 2d Regt. remains in Albany, I approve of your keepg up Genl Schuylers Guard to the Number you mention. The Militia will soon arrive; this Guard will then be furnished from them, and the Continental Soldiers must be withdrawn. Whenever you come down with the 2d. Regt. you will collect every Man of the old Regts. that you possibly can (except the Compa of Artillery) and bring down with you. The Frontier must be left to the Defence of the Militia.

You will continue to hold every thing in the most perfect Readiness to move down with the remainder of the Troops, on the Shortest Notice. Whenever the Militia begin to arrive, you will give me immediate Information.

As the Fort at Herkemers, for Want of Workmen, not being like to be compleated, and but a small comparative Force perhaps to be left in that Neighbourhood, the Heavy Cannon and Stores there may be insecure; I have therefore thourt best they should be removed to Albany, reserving only such Kinds and Quantity as may be absolutely needed for the Defence of the Posts in that Quarter; as you will probably be removed from Albany before the Stores can be sent down, I have Written to Colo Willet on this Subject and put the Matter under his Direction. I am &c.

P. S. On Removal of so large a Quantity of Stores and Cannon as will probably be sent down to Albany, Capt. Moodys[5] whole Company of Artillery may not be wanted on the Frontier. You will therefore Order such Number to continue, as you shall find Necessary and the Remainder you will direct to join the Army below.[6] [M.L.]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WATERBURY

Head Quarters, July 14, 1781.

Sir: I request you will Move with your Corps on the New Rochel Road towards East Chester this Evening, so as to be at the last Mentioned place by day break to morrow Morng. You will then open a communication with the Army, by sending Parties to Mile Square or Valentine's Hill and receive further Orders. I have mentioned the Object I have in view particularly to Major Humphreys,[7] in confidence; I will therefore refer you to him. I am &c.[8]

To COLONEL ALEXANDER SCAMMELL

Head Quarters near Dobbs ferry, July 14, 1781.

Sir: Before retreat Beating you will send off Parties to waylay the Roads leading to Kingsbridge, in order to stop all Intelligence going to the Enemy. A few of Sheldon's Horse (if

[5] Capt. Andrew Moodie (Moody), of the Second Continental Artillery. He served to June, 1783.

[6] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[7] Lieut. Col. David Humphreys.

[8] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

Later, on this same day (July 14), Washington wrote again to Waterbury: "The Weather is so bad that the Troops will not march this Evening as was proposed; you will therefore halt your Troops, takg the Position that was marked for you to cover the Dukes Left, where you will remain till further Orders." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

they are thort necessary) may attend the Parties, in order to bring back speedy intelligence of any Discoveries which may be made.

Between Retreat Beating and Dark, about Dusk, yours and Sheldons Corps will commence a silent March by the Right on the North River Road; from these Corps you will take care to communicate with the Column on the Saw Mill River Road, and regulate your March by it.

As soon as you get to the Hill back of Cortlandts, you are to Halt, see what is in the Front between that and the Bridge; reconnoitre Tippetts Hill with small parties; examine the Ways leading to it, and see how accessible the Hill is to Cannon, without being discovered from the Block House at the Bridge or the Redoubt at the Mouth of Spiten Devil; particular Attention also, by small Patroles, must be paid to any Movements which may be made upon the North River, and at Spiten Devil; to prevent the Enemy's turng our Right Flank undiscovered.

A Communication must be immediately opened between the light Troops on the Right, and the Main Body of the American Army on their left.

If the Troops with you should be attacked, you are not to suffer the Enemy to gain your Right; because you will be reinforced always on the left; your Position being on the Right, you are always to extend that Way, to prevent being turned on that Flank.

If you get to the Bridge without Discovery or Opposition, you will immediately send Word thereof along the Road, leading to Valentines Hill.

At the Mouth of Spiten Devil, it must be observed whether any Water Craft lies there, whether any Person lives in the House at the Point; or whether there are any Boats in the Creek, and of what kind (if any). Observe also what kind of Way

leads from the Creek to the Redoubt; also what kind of Carriage Way can be had thro the Fields to the point.

Reconnoitre is the Word, to distinguish between Friend and Foe.[9]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARINUS WILLETT

Head Quarters near Dobbs's ferry, July 14, 1781.

Sir: I have recd. your favor of the 6th. The dispositions which you are making for the defence of the Country upon the Mohawk River appear to me judicious, as I have ever been of opinion that small stationary Garrisons were of no real utility. By having your parties constantly in motion and ready to unite upon occasion, the small parties of the Enemy will be checked and their Main Body may be suddenly attacked, if they commit themselves too far into the settlements. A proportion of the Massachusetts Militia will be ordered to reinforce your command. Upon them and the Levies of New York you must place your dependance, for it will be impossible for me, while our present operations are in hand, to spare any of the Continental Troops.

From your letter and from Major Villefranche's representation, I find it will be impossible to construct a new Work; I have therefore desired him to put Fort Herkimer in the best posture of defence. And as the greater part of the Artillery and Stores will, as you observe, in that case be superfluous, you will send down all that are not wanted to The Commy. of Military Stores at Albany. A small Magazine by way of reserve may be kept at Schenectady. I am etc.[10]

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[9] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

On the evening of this same day (July 14) Washington wrote again to Scammell: "The Weather is so extremely bad that the Move is postponed for this Evening. You will therefore return to your Camp; keeping out only the usual Guards." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

[10] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To CHEVALIER VILLEFRANCHE[11]

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry, July 14, 1781.

Sir: I have been duly favored with your Letter of the 6th Inst from Fort Herkimer.

Under the present situation of our affairs at the Northward, I do not know what, could have been done, preferable to the measures you have fallen upon. Without materials, or the means of erecting New Fortifications, it was certainly the wisest plan to repair the Old Ones, and to give all the additional strength to them, which we possibly could in our circumstances.

Strong Block Houses, and other fortified Houses will be a great security against the incursion of small parties of the Enemy.

I have written to Genl Clinton and Colo Willet, respecting the Artillery and Stores you mention. With great regard, I am &c.[12]

To CAPTAIN JOHN PRAY

Head Quarters near Dobbs ferry, July 14, 1781.

Sir: You are to have the Water guard supplied with three days provisions and make preparations instantly to go down the River with all your Light Guard Boats this Evening. You will take effectual care to proceed below in such a manner as to discover with certainty whether the Enemy have any Guard or other Boats, on the Water advanced at any distance from their Shipping.

I mention in confidence to you, that there will be a movement of our Troops this Night for the purpose of reconnoitring

[11] Maj. Jean Louis Ambroise de Genton, Chevalier de Villefranche. He was an engineer and served until November, 1783.

[12] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

the Enemy (you will be pleased to keep this to yourself until the Troops have marched). In case there should be any Movement of the Enemy you will immediately communicate the intelligence to the Officer commanding at Dobbs' Ferry and to Col Scammell, who will move on the North River Road, and take his position on Tippetts hill in the Morning. Indeed I shall expect you will open a communication with the latter as soon as may be, whether any thing remarkable would happen or not. I am etc.[13]

To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry, July 14, 1781.

Sir: General Heath, in a letter of the 4th. of July, informs me that the State have about 50 pipes of Teneriffe Wine, which they are willing, if it will answer as well, to send forward to the Army in lieu of Rum. As he thought it more than probable that he would have left Boston before my answer could arrive, he desired me to make it to your Excellency.

Wine can not be distributed to the soldiers instead of Rum, except the quantity is much increased. I very much doubt, whether a Gill of Rum would not be preferred to a pint of small Wine. The cost would therefore be much greater, and the difference of transportation immense; as I imagine 12 or 15 Hhds of Rum would go as far as 50 pipes of Wine. If 5 or 6 pipes only can be sent on, they will be agreeable and essentially useful to the patients in the Hospital, who are suffering extreme distress for stores of every kind.

I must request the favor of your Excellency to forward the packet of letters herewith by the first good opportunity to any port of France. I have the honor etc.[14]

[13] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.
[14] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry,
Saturday, July 14, 1781.

Parole Burgundy. Countersigns Rochelle, Dunkirk.

For the Day tomorrow
- Brigadier General Patterson
- Lieutenant Colonel C. Smith[15]
- For Picquet Major Billey Porter
- Inspector from Stark's Brigade

The Gentlemen who attend at the Adjutant General's office for Orders are requested to be there precisely at three o'clock P. M. untill further orders.

Captain Converse[16] of the second Connecticut Regiment is appointed to do the duty of Inspector to the second Connecticut Brigade.

Captain Warner[17] of the first Connecticut regiment is appointed to do the duty of Inspector to the first Connecticut Brigade. Both these Gentlemen are to be respected and obeyed accordingly.

To CLARK & NIGHTINGALE

Head Quarters, July 14, 1781.

Gentlemen: Your agreeable Favor of the 19th ulto. pr Genl Viominil, with its very pleasing Attendant, is come safe to Hand, for which you will please to accept my warmest Thanks.

That our Enemies Consignments are so often diverted from the Point of their Intention, is matter of very pleasing Satisfaction to me; and you may be assured Gentlemen that I am

[15] Lieut. Col. Calvin Smith, of the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment. He served to June, 1783.

[16] Capt. Thomas Converse. He retired in January, 1783.

[17] Capt. Robert Warner. He was appointed major in the same regiment (First Connecticut) in May, 1782, and retired in January, 1783.

particularly rejoiced that Fortune had so often cast her Favors into your Lap. With very particular Respect I have the honor etc.[18]

*To RICHARD HENRY LEE

Camp near Dobbs's ferry, July 15, 1781.

Dear Sir: The moving state in wch. the Army was, at the time your letter of the 12th. Ulto.[19] came to hand. the junction of the Allied troops, which was upon the point of being formed; and a variety of matters which have occurred since that period, consequent of this junction rather than a disinclination to continue a corrispondence the benefits of which have been in my favor must plead an excuse for my long silence. Unconscious of having given you just cause to change the favourable sentiments you have expressed for me I could not suppose you had altered them, and as I never suffer reports, unsupported by proofs, to have weight in my Mind I know no reason why our corrispondence should cease, or become less

[18] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[19] "Altho our correspondence has been long interrupted I hope that our friendship never will, notwithstanding the arts of wicked men who have endeavored to create discord and dissension among the friends of America. For myself, having little but my good wishes to send you, it was not worth while to take up your attention a moment with them. The contents of this letter will I am sure require no apology, because you always approve that zeal which is employed in the public service, and has for its object the public good. . . . It would be a thing for angels to weep over, if the goodly fabric of human freedom, which you have so well labored to rear, should in one unlucky moment be levelled with the dust. There is nothing I think more certain, than that your personal call would bring into immediate exertion the force and the resources of this State and its neighboring ones, which directed as it would be will effectually disappoint and baffle the deep laid schemes of the enemy."—*Richard Henry Lee to Washington,* Chantilly, June 12, 1781.

In this letter Lee inclosed a copy of one which he had written to James Lovell, Theodorick Bland, and Joseph Jones, in Congress, in which he proposed that Washington should "be immediately sent to Virginia, with 2 or 3000 good Troops. Let Congress, as the head of the federal union, in this crisis, direct that until the Legislature can convene and a Governor be appointed, the General be possessed of Dictatorial powers, and that it be strongly recommended to the Assembly when conven'd to continue those powers for 6. 8 or 10 months, as the case may be. And the General may be desired instantly on his arrival in Virginia to summon the members of both houses to meet where he shall appoint, to organize and resettle their Government." These letters are in the *Washington Papers.*

frequent than heretofore, excepting, on my part, that as our affairs became more perplexing and embarrassed the public claimed more of my attention and consequently left me less leizure for private endulgencies. That this has been the case in an eminent degree for some time past, a Gentleman as well acquainted with public affairs as you are, need not be told.

The distresses of Virginia I am but too well acquainted with; but the plan you have suggested as a relief for it, in my judgment is a greater proof of your unbounded confidence in me than it is that the means proposed would be found adequate to the end in view were it practicable to make the experiment; which, at present, is not; as there are insuperable obstacles to my removing from the immediate command of the combined troops; the reasons for this opinion I cannot entrust to paper; at all times liable to miscarriage, and peculiarly so of late.

I am fully perswaded however (and upon good Military principles) that the measures I have adopted will give more effectual and speedier relief to the State of Virginia than if I was to March thither with dictatorial power at the head of every Man I could draw from hence without leaving the important posts on the North river quite defenceless, and these States open to devastation and ravage. When I say this I would be understood to mean, if I am properly supported (and I have asked no extraordinary succours) by the States Eastward of Jersey, inclusive. My present operation and which I have been preparing for with all the zeal and activity in my power, will, I am morally certain If I am properly supported produce one of two things, the fall of New York, or a withdraw [*sic*] of the Troops from Virginia; excepting a Garrison at Portsmouth, at which place I have no doubt of the enemys intention to establish a permanent post. A Long land March, in which we never failed to dissipate half our Men. the difficulty, and expence of transportation, and other reasons not less powerful but

wch. I dare not commit to writing, decided me in my present plan, and my hopes, I trust, will not be disappointed.

In half an hours conversation I could, I flatter myself, convince you of the utility of my measures; but as I have before observed, I dare not attempt it by letter, because I have already had two or three important ones intercepted in the Mails the sight of which I am perswaded occasioned the retrograde movemts. of Lord Cornwallis, and will be the means of bringing part of his force to New York. to the accomplishment of one part of my plan.

The fatal policy of short enlistmts. (the primary cause of all our misfortunes; the prolongation of the War; and the source of the immense debt under which we labour) is now shedding its baneful influence upon our measures and I am labouring under all the disadvantages and evils which result from them and the want of Men. It can be no News to tell you, that by the expiration of the terms of enlistment I was left last Winter with a force so much reduced as to be scarcely able to garrison West point; but it may be News, and is not less true than surprizing to you, to hear that not half the Men which were required to be with the Army, as recruits for the Continental Battns., by the first day of Jany., last are yet arrived; and of those asked by me from the Militia, not one is come.

But a few words more and I will put an end to this long letter. No endeavour of mine has been wanting to obtain a superior naval force in these Seas, nor to employ that which we have, to valuable purposes; how far I have succeeded in the latter is but too obvious; how far I may see my wishes accomplished in the former, time must discover. with great esteem etc.[20]

[20] This draft is indorsed by Washington, with the following note: "In copying the inclosed some sentences were transposed, and alterations and corrections made in the direction wch. time did not allow me to make in this the sentiments however were the same."

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry,
Sunday, July 15, 1781.

Parole Virginia. Countersigns La Fayette, Steuben.

For the day Tomorrow
- Brigadier General Huntington
- Lieutenant Colonel Mellen[21]
- Inspector, Captain Warner
- For Picquet Major Spurr[22]

As it has been represented to the Commander in Chief that the quantity of fresh meat lately ordered to be drawn by the troops will not keep during this hot Season, He desires the Commissary General may cause two days allowance of salt beef to be issued to every regiment which is to be put into the care of the regimental Quarter master not to be delivered to the troops but by special order of the Commanding officers of Brigades and that the troops be served daily with fresh beef.

Captain Robert Pemberton[23] being appointed assistant Adjutant General vice Dexter[24] promoted and joined his regiment is to be respected and obeyed accordingly.

*To JOHN AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON

Camp near Dobbs's ferry, July 15, 1781.

My dear Brother: A letter to which the inclosed is an answer, was accompanied by one from you, the load of business, and constant hurry which attends me, obliges me to have recourse to shifts to avoid writing, and to husband time. to this

[21] Lieut. Col. James Mellen, of the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment. He was made lieutenant colonel commandant of the Third Massachusetts Regiment in January, 1783, and served to June, 1783.

[22] Maj. John Spurr, of the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment. He retired in January, 1783.

[23] Formerly of Forman's Additional Continental regiment.

[24] Maj. John Singer Dexter, of Olney's Rhode Island regiment. He had been assistant adjutant general from May, 1779, to July, 1781, and served to November, 1783.

you are to ascribe the expedient of sending the Letter of Colo. Lee under a flying seal to you, as it will answer the end of a separate communication of the same sentiments.

I wait in anxious expectation of the reinforcements demanded of the surrounding States. the enemy, we are told, are also waiting for the whole, or part of their Troops from Virginia; which will obtain them first is as uncertain, as it is interesting. It is long since I wrote to you, in truth our Affairs during the whole Winter and spring, laboured under such complicated embarrassments, and distress, that I had no time to write, or think of anything but the means most likely to extricate them. I offer with much sincerity and truth, my best wishes to my Sister and the rest of your family, and with every sentiment of affectionate regard I am etc.

To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL

Head Quarters near Dobbs's ferry, July 15, 1781.

Dear Sir: I rec'd yours with the returns enclosed. I have desired Genl. Schuyler to forward to west point with all possible dispatch the boats that are at present fit for service.

Immediately upon their arrival at your post I wish you to have them safely moored in some convenient cove and Guarded in such a manner as will effectually prevent any person from using them or the Oars, plank, &c. that may be sent with them on any pretence whatever. I am &c.[25]

To PHILIP SCHUYLER

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry, July 15, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have to desire that you will be pleased immediately on Receipt of this to collect all the Boats that are finished,

[25] The draft is in the writing of William Stephens Smith.

that they may come down the River; you will put into them all the Oars that are on Hand or that can be instantly collected with the Plank and Timber which you have procured; and let them all come down together.

I have written to Genl Clinton to furnish Men to bring down the Boats, and hope the matter may be expedited with all the Dispatch possible. I am &c.[26]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES CLINTON

Head Quarters, Dobbs' Ferry, July 15, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have written to General Schuyler to have all the Boats, Oars, and Plank, which he has been able to procure for the Public instantly sent to West Point, and mentioned that you would furnish Men for the purpose.

I have now to request that you will Order exactly a sufficient number of Men properly Officered from the 2d New York Regt. to bring these Boats immediately down the River; the Boats will be delivered to the Orders of Major Genl McDougall. I am &c.[27]

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Dobbs Ferry, July 15, 1781.

Dr. Sr: One Losee,[28] formerly an Inhabitant of this State, now a Deserter from the Enemy, is sent to your Excellency's

[26] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[27] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

On July 15 Humphreys, by Washington's orders, wrote to the commanding officer at Verplanck's Point, informing him that five British vessels passed Dobbs Ferry, going up the river. "No more Vessels or Boats whatever be permitted to come down the river untill further Orders. You will be particularly Vigilant at your Post, communicate the same intelligence and instruction to the Commandg Officer of Stony Point, and transmit a Copy of this Letter immediately to Majr Genl McDougall." Humphreys's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

[28] Simon(?) Losee, of Long Island.

disposal. It is asserted by a certain Berrian[29] (immediately from the Enemy) that Losee was an Emissary charged with Dispatches for the Enemy at the Northward; I am also told Col Dayton has recd similar information of him. I have the honor etc.[30]

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters near Dobbs's Ferry, July 16, 1781.

Gentlemen: I very much approve and am exceedingly obliged by the Resolutions which have been entered into by the Board for the supply of my Table, and which have been communicated to me by Mr. Secretary Carleton. I have for a long time past seen the advantages which would arise from having a trusty person about me in the character of a Steward, and have endeavoured without effect to procure such an one. The Choice of this person the Board have been pleased to leave to me, but as I see no chance of finding one, properly qualified, in or about the Army, I must request the further favor of them to take measures by advertisement or otherwise, to procure one in Philada. which I think the most likely place. A Man who has served with reputation as Butler to a Gentlemans family, or as principal Waiter and Caterer to a genteel Tavern would answer better than one unused to such offices, as setting out a table ought to be part of his business as well as providing for it.[31] I have the honor etc.[32]

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[29] Abraham(?) Berrien, of Queen's County, N. Y.

[30] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

[31] The Board of War answered (August 9) that it had appointed John Loveday as steward. Tilghman's indorsement on this letter is: "recommending Mr. Loveday for Steward." This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

[32] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

A rough memorandum, in the writing of Tench Tilghman, dated July 15, 1781, is in the *Washington Papers*, giving the rank and file strength of the Continental Army on that date, by brigades, regiments, and detachments. The total is 5,835. The memorandum is indorsed by Washington: "Force in July 1781."

To LIEUTENANT JOHN TOWNES

Head Quarters near Dobbs ferry, July 16, 1781.

Sir: Since mine of the 10th. I have recd. your letter of the same date inclosing the Copy of the proceedings of the Court Martial held upon you, and the deposition of the Harbour Master of Charles town. My last having informed you the propriety of submitting the matter to Major General Greene's determination, I now repeat my opinion, and return the papers to you, that you may either carry or forward them to him. I am etc.[33]

GENERAL ORDERS

Headquarters near Dobb's Ferry,
Monday, July 16, 1781.

Parole France. Countersigns Spain, America.

For the day Tomorrow
- Major General Lord Stirling
- Lieutenant Colonel Vose
- For Picquet Major Scott
- Inspector Capt. Converse

A Captain from the New Hampshire brigade to join the Light Infantry under Colonel Scammell this day.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS[34]

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry, July 16, 1781.

Sir: I have been duly honored by the Receipt of your Excellency's Favor of the 8th instant, with a Resolution of Congress of the 7th, and an Extract of a Letter from Govern. Greene of the 7th, of June, inclosed.

[33] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[34] Thomas McKean, of Pennsylvania and Delaware, had been elected President of Congress on July 10.

Your Excellency is not unacquainted with the Measures which had been taken to draw forth the Aid of Militia for the Security of the State of Rhode Island, or the Withdraw of the French Troops from Newport; it is unnecessary for me to recapitulate on that Head.

I have also received a Letter from Goverr Greene on the same Subject, to which I had replied previous to the Receipt of your Excellencys Favor. I have the Honor etc.[35]

To COLONEL CHARLES STEWART

Head Quarters near Dobbs's ferry, July 16, 1781.

Sir: His Excellency desires you will either go yourself, or send some Gentleman of your Department to the White Plains to examine the Position, number and state of the Ovens at that Place; and to report to him tomorrow Morng. where they are, What number there are, what quantity of Bread they will Bake pr day, and what condition they are now in, with as much accuracy and precision as possible. I am &c.[36]

To PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry, July 16, 1781.

Sir: I am honored with your Excellency's Favor of the 7th. I am exceedingly happy to find that the mode of procuring the specific Supplies demanded of the state is now upon such a footing that we may hope for a full and regular Compliance in future: and I doubt not but if the other States will follow the Example, and appropriate a proportion of their Revenue to the Disposal of the Superintendant of Finance, we shall soon

[35] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[36] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D. H. Humphreys, Aide De Camp."

see our Affairs assume a new and pleasing Appearance. I am convinced that the sole hope of the Enemy has long rested upon the deranged State of our Finance. Indeed all our late Difficulties and Distresses have proceeded from that Source; for I believe it will be confessed, that the Country, since the Commencement of the War, never abounded so much in Resources as at present.

The Resolve of Congress of 25th of May having no Retrospect, I can put no other than my former Construction upon it, which was, that all Promotions in the Artillery and Cavalry, were to be made up to that Date upon the Principles which had governed for three Years in those Corps. Is it not strange that the Officers of the Regiment, late Proctor's, should be the only ones who claim a Right to an Exemption from what they very well know has been the Rule of Service? It is but a few Days ago, that a Memorial from them to Congress upon the same Subject was handed to me by the Board of War, when I answered it in the same Manner that I had before done to the Council.

Your Excellency cannot oblige me more, than by interesting yourself in raising the Rifle Corps. We experienced the Want of such a Body of Men in a little Affair near Kings bridge the Beging. of this Month, in which our Troops were galled considerably by the Hessian Jagers, who did Execution at a Distance to which our Musquetry could not reach.

The Proceedings upon Lieut. Bigham[37] are transmitted by this Conveyance to the Board of War. Your Excellency can therefore call upon them for a Copy of the whole, or such Extracts as may be necessary. I have the Honor etc.[38] [H.S.P.]

[37] Bingham.
[38] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobbs ferry,
Tuesday, July 17, 1781.

Parole Champagne. Countersigns Passi, Lyons.

For the Day Tomorrow
Major General Lincoln
Lieutenant Colonel Olney
For picquet Major Woodbridge
Inspector Captain Remick[39]

The Commander in Chief is exceedingly pleased with the Conduct of Major General Howe for marching with so much alacrity and rapidity to the defence of the stores at Tarrytown. and repulsing the Enemy's shipping from thence.

He requests General Howe and all the officers and soldiers of the American and French Armies who were employed on the occasion to accept this public acknowledgement of their Services.

The gallant behaviour and spirited exertions of Colonel Sheldon, Captain Hurlbut[40] of the second regiment of Dragoons, Captain Lieutenant Miles[41] of the Artillery and Lieutenant Shaylor[42] of the 4th Connecticut regiment (previous to the arrival of the troops) in extinguishing the flames of the vessels which had been set on fire by the enemy and rescuing the whole of the ordinance and stores from Destruction entitle them to the most distinguished notice and Applause of their General.

[39] Capt. Timothy Remick, of the First Massachusetts Regiment. He served to November, 1783.

[40] Capt. George Hurlbut, of the Second Continental Dragoons. He was wounded in this skirmish on July 15, 1781, and died of his wound in May, 1783.

[41] Capt.-Lieut. John Miles, of the Second Continental Artillery. He resigned in December, 1782.

[42] Lieut. Joseph Shaylor. He was transferred to the First Connecticut Regiment in January, 1783, and served to June, 1783.

The Alacrity and dispatch manifested by the officers and soldiers employed in erecting the works at Dobbs ferry are highly pleasing to the General: he begs that Colonel Greaton and Lieutenant Colonel Gouvion may accept his thanks for their attention and activity on this occasion and that they will be pleased to communicate to the officers and soldiers of the working party and of the Corps of Sappers and Miners employed there the grateful sense he entertains of their services.

A General Court Martial whereof Colonel Putnam is appointed President will assemble tomorrow at 10 o'clock A. M. at the president's Marquee for the trial of Stephen Dodge of the second regiment of Light Dragoons and such other prisoners as may be brought before it.

Lieutenant Colonel Sprout, Major Scott, two Captains, from the first Connecticut, two from the second, two from the first Massachusetts, one from the second, one from the third; and two from the New Hampshire Brigades will attend as Members. All evidences and persons concerned are requested to attend. An Orderly Serjeant from each Division to be sent to the Court.

The Commander in Chief directs that in future all prisoners charged with Capital Crimes be sent to the Provost guard to be tried by a General Court Martial of the line; those charged with crimes, not capital to be confined in the quarter guards of their respective regiments and tried by regimental Courts martial.

Those who Confine Prisoners in the Provost are to note at the bottom of the Charge against them the names of the Witnesses their Rank and the regiment to which they belong.

A Captain and fifty men for three days command to be on the Grand parade precisely at five o'clock this afternoon they are to relieve a like number now on command at Tarrytown.

AFTER ORDERS

Four able bodied men from each brigade who understand mowing to be sent early tomorrow morning to the Forage master General's Quarters near Storm's bridge to be employed by him till further orders.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobbs' Ferry,
Wednesday, July 18, 1781.

MORNING ORDERS

A Subaltern and eighteen privates for Guard to be on the Grand Parade at two oclock this afternoon.

Parole Marblehead. Countersigns Salem, Newhaven.

For the day tomorrow
- Major General Howe
- Lieutenant Colonel Reid
- For Picquet Major Trescot
- Inspector Captain Drew[43]

An Active industrious Serjeant is much wanted to serve as Provost Marshal any officer who can recommend a suitable person is requested to send his name and regiment to the Orderly office.

To CHEVALIER DE CHASTELLUX

Head Quarters, July 19, 1781.

Dear Sir: You have taken a most effectual method of obliging me to accept your Cask of Claret, as I find, by your

[43] Capt. Seth Drew, of the Second Massachusetts Regiment. He had been appointed brigade inspector on July 13, 1781; major of the Third Massachusetts Regiment in January, 1783; served to June, 1783.

"I passed the North River with Count de Rochambeau, Genl. de Beville his Qr: Mr. Genl. and Genl. Duportail in order to Reconnoitre the Enemy Posts and Encampments at the North end of York Island; took an Escort of 150 Men from the Jersey Troops on the other side."—*Washington's Diary*, July 18, 1781.

ingenious manner of stating the case, that I shall, by a refusal, bring my patriotism into question, and incur a suspicion of want of attachment to the French Nation, and of regard to you, [wch. of all things I wish to avoid] I will not enter into a discussion of the point of divinity, as I [perceive] you are a Master at that Weapon.

In short, my dear sir, my only scruple arises from a fear of depriving you of an Article that you cannot conveniently replace in this Country. You can only relieve me by promising to partake very often of that hilarity which a Glass of good Claret seldom fails to produce. I am &c.[44]

CONFERENCE AT DOBBS FERRY[45]

Camp at Dobbs's Ferry, July 19, 1781.

It is next to impossible at this Moment, circumstanced as we are and labouring under uncertainties, to fix a definitive plan for the Campaign: definitive Measures must depend upon Circumstances at the Time of the Arrival of the Count de Grasse; particularly on the following:

1st. The Situation of the Enemy at that Moment.

2d. On the Succours he shall bring with him; or on the Force we shall have collected by that Period.

3rd. On the Operation and Advantages wch. may be gained by the Fleet in the Moment of its Arrival, and,

[44] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[45] The record of this conference between Comte de Rochambeau and General Washington consists of a list of questions by Rochambeau, in the writing of De Sibille, and the answers of Washington, in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The questions and answers are in parallel columns, but are not numbered. The question column is signed by Rochambeau and the answer column is signed and dated by Washington. A copy, in which both questions and answers are in the writing of Trumbull, is in the Chateau de Rochambeau, France. This is signed by Washington.

Rochambeau's questions are not given in the above text, as they are sufficiently indicated by Washington's answers.

4th. On the Continuance of the Fleet upon, and probability of its maintaing a decisive Superiority whilst it is here.

If the Fleet of Count de Grasse should be late in its arriving to this Coast; if the Count should not think it prudent to attempt forcing the Passage of the Hook, or fail in making the Attempt; if he should bring no land Troops with him, and the American Force should not be considerably augmented, I am of Opinion, that under these Circumstances, we ought to throw a sufficient Garrison into W Point; leave some Continental Troops and Militia to cover the Country contiguous to N-York, and transport the Remainder (both French and American) to Virginia, should the Enemy still keep a Force there; the Season and other Circumstances will admit of late Operations in that Quarter; to be prepared for such an Event, I think it highly expedient, that Mr. Barras should hold all his Transports in the utmost Readiness to take the Detachment under Mr De Choisy and the heavy Artillery at Providence, on Board, and sail with them to meet the Troops either in Delaware or Chesapeak, as may be ultimately agreed upon.

But should the Fleet arrive in Season, not be limited to a short Stay; should be able to force the Harbour of N York, and in addition to all these, should find the British Force in a divided State. I am of opinion that the Enterprize against New York and its Dependencies should be our primary Object.

To prevent the Enemy from a possibility of formg a Junction, and to lay a Foundation for their Ruin, I was anxious that Count de Barras, if he thort the Departure of the Royal Oak, had given him a naval Superiority, should sail for Chesepeak; an Event, *if the Superiority is on his Side,* I devoutly wish, as I am of Opinion that much Good, and no Evil can

result from it. The reasons which induce the Count to decline the Measure, have been communicated by him to your Excellency and to me by Letter.

Upon the whole I do not see what more can be done than to prosecute the Plan agreed to at Weathersfield, and to recommend it to the Count de Grasse to come immediately to Sandy Hook, and if possible possess the Harbour of N York at the Moment of his Arrival, and then from a full View and Consideration of the Circumstances which exist, form a definitive plan of Campaign upon the surest Grounds.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry,
Thursday, July 19, 1781.

Parole Newport. Countersigns Choisy, Barras.

For the day Tomorrow
- Major General Parsons
- Lieutenant Colonel Newhal[46]
- For Picquet Major Gibbs
- Inspector Captain Smith

The Guards are to be furnished with the Countersigns at Retreat beating and no person suffered to pass into or out of Camp after that time without giving it; or otherwise satisfying the officer of the guard they are stopped by.

The Brigade Quarter masters are to be particularly careful in having the offal buried as the Camp is becoming offensive.

Serjeant Asa Andrus of the first Connecticut regiment is appointed to do the duty of Provost Marshal untill further Orders and is to be obeyed as such.

[46] Lieut. Col. Ezra Newhall, of the Fifth Massachusetts Regiment. He was transferred to the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment in January, 1783, and served to November, 1783.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry,
Friday, July 20, 1781.

Parole Newport. Countersigns Choise, Barras.

For the day Tomorrow
- Brigadier General Glover
- Lieutenant Colonel Badlam
- For Picquet Major Clift
- Inspector Captain Robinson[47]

For the Working Party Major Woodbridge.

The Regimental Surgeons are desired to be punctual in sending the Returns of the Sick of their respective regiments to the flying Hospital every Saturday morning.

Untill further orders the Drum and Fife Majors of the several Corps in Camp are to assemble every day at 10 o'clock A. M. in the wood in the rear of the second line to practice under the direction of the Inspector of Music who will attend for that purpose.

A working party under the command of a Major to parade tomorrow morning at eight o'clock on the Grand parade with their Arms and packs to march to Dobbs ferry to erect such fortifications as the Engineer at that Post shall point out.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES CLINTON

Head Quarters, Dobbs's Ferry, July 20, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have recd. your favor of the 12th. I imagine before this reaches you the first detachment of Boats will have been sent down. Should they not, you will be pleased to have the

[47] Capt. Caleb Robinson, of the Second New Hampshire Regiment. He was brigade inspector in July, 1781; major in October, 1781; retired in March, 1782.

light Company of Cortlandts compleated and sent down with them. Should the Boats have come away, you will consider whether you can spare the light Company and have a sufficient number of Men left to bring down the remainder of the Boats which are building under the direction of Genl. Schuyler. In that case you will send the Company immediately down and Major Fish with it. If you cannot, you will let the light Company man the next Boats that are ready.

Be pleased to let me know whether any Militia from Massachusetts have come in or whether you have heard any thing of them or of Genl. Stark. I am &c.[48]

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, July 20, 1781.

Sir: I have been favour'd with yours of last evening. I could wish that the present situation of the River might be improv'd to every advantage; whatever Boats you think necessary, may be order'd to Dobbs's ferry; but particular care must be taken in the transportation of Stores across the opposite Country, that they come in small convoys, and no deposits made either at the Ferry or on the road.

I am very sorry that our situation shou'd ever be such as to oblige the impress of any of the property of the Inhabitants, but our present necessity must justify the measure; I therefore only wish, that when Colo. Dearborn goes upon that business, he wou'd take the horses from the Disaffected of that Country in preference to any other. Expresses may pass that way, I think, with safety. I am &c.[49]

[48] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[49] The draft is in the writing of David Cobb.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobb's Ferry,
Saturday, July 21, 1781.

Parole Providence. Countersigns Prudence, Brenton.
Watchword Alliance.

For the day Tomorrow
Brigadier General Huntington
Lieutenant Colonel Johnson
For Picquet Major Knap
Inspector Captain Warner[50]

At a General Court Martial whereof Colonel Putnam is president, Stephen Dodge, Soldier in the second regiment of Light Dragoons charged with "Desertion and reinlisting in the York Levies" was tried, found Guilty and sentenced to receive one Hundred Lashes on his bare back.

Jonathan Day, Soldier in the above regiment, charg'd as above, was tried found guilty and sentenced to receive one hundred Lashes on his bare back.

Cornelius Corbett, Soldier in the 10th Massachusetts regiment, charged with "Attempting the life of Ensign Moses Carlton,"[51] was tried and found Guilty of a breach of Article 5 Section 2d. of the Rules and Articles of War and sentenced to receive one hundred Lashes on his bare back.

The Commander in Chief approves the foregoing sentences.

To COMTE DE GRASSE

Head Quarters, Dobbs's Ferry, July 21, 1781.

Sir: Your Excellency will have been informed by the Chevr. de la Luzerne of the ardent wishes of these United States to see

[50] Capt. Robert Warner, of the First Connecticut Regiment. He was made major in May, 1782, and retired in January, 1783.

[51] Of the Fifth Massachusetts Regiment. He was appointed lieutenant in May, 1782, and retired in January, 1783.

the Fleet under your command in these Seas; will have been told the advantages which would in all probability be the result of such a movement; how essential it would be to make an early communication of your approach, and that you would be met off *Sandy Hook* with such details as might be necessary for your Government.

In full confidence that you will be soon upon this Coast, I have the honor to inform you that the allied Armies have formed a junction and taken a position about ten Miles above the enemy's posts on the North end of York Island. Their Right at Dobb's Ferry on the North or Hudson's River, their left extending to a small River called the Brunx. The French Force consists of about *4400* Men. The American is at this time but *small,* but expected to be *considerably augmented.* In this however we may be disappointed. And as the time of your arrival and the succour you may bring are altogether uncertain no definitive plan of operation has been or can be fixed. It must depend upon the situation of the enemy at the moment of your approach, and upon the force we shall be able to oppose to them in any given point.

The Enemy's land force in *New York* and *its dependencies,* including some late reinforcements from England, may amount at this time to about *5000* Regular Troops besides Militia, which may be about *3000* more. but they may be reinforced from Virginia, and the event is expected, unless they should be prevented by the arrival of your Excellency upon the Coast or some other intervention. Should they be hindered from effecting a further junction of Force at New York, that City and its dependencies are our primary objects. Your Excellency, by being in possession of the Harbour within Sandy Hook, would give facility if not certainty to the operation, but the practicability of gaining the entrance will be

with your Excellency to determine, upon your general knowledge of the place, from your own observation upon the spot, and upon the information you will receive from the Pilots who accompany you.

The Enemy's naval force at New York consists at present of only six Ships of the Line. I think two of 50 Guns and a few Frigates. The Royal Oak, a ship of the line, has lately been sent to Hallifax to receive some repairs which could not be done at New York.

The second object, in case we should find our force and means incompetent to the first, is the relief of Virginia, or such of the southern States as the enemy may be found in, by transporting the principal part of our force suddenly to that quarter; and that we may be ready for such an event, preparations are making to facilitate such a movement. But of this I hope there will be no occasion, as I flatter myself the glory of destroying the British Squadron at New York is reserved for the Kings Fleet under your command, and that of the land Force at the same place for the allied Arms.

A Gentleman of the name of Forman,[52] who will probably have the honor of delivering this to you, is a person in whom you may perfectly confide and who will forward your dispatches immediately to me.

If you are not sufficiently provided with pilots, some of the most expert and trusty shall be sent to you without delay. I have the honor etc.[53]

[52] Brig. Gen. David Forman.

[53] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

"I am much obliged by the Favor you have done me in Translating my letter to Count De Grasse and for Cypherg some Part thereof; it is very necessary to keep its Contents from Discovery. Your Goodness I hope will effect this for which you will please to accept my sincere Thanks."—*Washington to De Sibille,* July 21, 1781. This draft is in the *Washington Papers.*

To COMTE DE BARRAS

Head Quarters, Dobb's Ferry, July 21, 1781.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's favor of the 15th. Inst. I have no doubt but the reasons which induce you to decline the removal of the Squadron under your command to Chesapeak at this time are founded in propriety; but I am certain that could the measure have taken place, it would have been attended with most valuable consequences, more especially as from reports and appearances the enemy are about to bring part of their Troops from Virginia to New York.

Although the detachment from your Fleet, under the command of the Baron D'Angely[54] did not succeed at Huntington, we are not the less obliged to your Excellency for directing the attempt to be made.[55] If that post is maintained, I think an opportunity of striking it to advantage may still be found, and I doubt not but you will readily embrace it. I have the honor etc.[56]

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry, July 21, 1781.

Gentlemen: I was last Evening favored with yours of the 16th instt inclosing Copies of two Letters from B Genl Knox to your Board on the Subject of forwarding Military Stores to the Army. Circumstanced as I am at this Moment, with many surroundg Doubts and Uncertainties, from too many Reasons, it is impossible for me to fix on any certain Point of Time, at which I should wish to have the Stores in Camp. I have

[54] François Marie Baron d'Angely. He was colonel and aide to Baron de Viominil.
[55] An attempt had been made to surprise the Tory post at Huntington, Long Island, but had failed.
[56] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

however to desire that they may all be provided, agreeable to Genl Knox's Request, and held in the most perfect Readiness to be sent on to the Army, at any Point to which Events may determine them, of which you will receive the earliest Notice. I am etc.[57]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry, July 21, 1781.

Sir: I have been honored by your Excellencys three Letters of the 14th and 17th of this Month, with the several Resolutions of Congress, and the Extracts from intercepted Letters, inclosed.

I am much obliged by your Attention in the Communication of the Extracts,[58] altho I had been favored with them thro' another Channel, previous to the Receipt of your Favor; the Intelligence to be collected from them, if properly improved, I think may turn greatly to our Advantage.

I take this Opportunity most sincerely to congratulate you Sir, on the Honor conferred on you by Congress, in being elected to preside in that most respectable Body;[59] happy, as I expect to be in your Correspondence, I dare say I shall have no Reason to complain of the Mode of your conducting it; as from a knowledge of your Character I flatter myself it will ever be performed with great Propriety. I take the Liberty

[57] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[58] The extracts were from Germain to Sir Henry Clinton, Feb. 7, 1781; Germain to the British Peace Commissioners at New York, March 7; and Germain to Clinton, March 7. They are filed in the *Washington Papers* with McKean's letter to Washington, July 17, 1781. McKean added at the end of the extracts: "It further appears from these letters, that Arnold has received Bills of Exchange for five thousand pounds sterling on London, which have been paid and the money invested in the Stocks. This was probably the *certain* reward of his treason, the rest may have been *eventual*."

[59] "I have been honored with your Letter of the 10th instt. informg, that Congress, upon the Retiring of the late Mr President Huntington, had elected The Hono Thomas McKean Esqr to preside in their respectable Body. I shall for the future conduct my Correspondence agreable to this Information."—*Washington to Charles Thomson*, July 21, 1781. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

however to request as a particular Favor, that you will be so good as to convey to me, as you have Opportunity, any interesting Intelligence which you may receive, either from Europe or respecting our Continental Affairs; your Situation will put it particularly in your Power to oblige me in this Request, and be assured Sir! that a greater Obligation cannot be conferred, since for Want of Communication in this Way, I have often been left in the Dark in Matters which essentially concern the public Welfare; and which, if known, might be very influential in the Government of my Conduct in the Military Line.

I am happy to be informed by Accounts from all Parts of the Continent, of the agreeable Prospect of a very plentifull Supply of almost all the Productions of the Earth. Blessed as we are with the Bounties of Providence, necessary for our support and Defence, the Fault must surely be our own (and great indeed will it be), if we do not, by a proper Use of them, attain the noble Prize for wch. we have so long been contending, the Establishment of Peace, Liberty and Independance. I have the Honor etc.[60]

To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL

Head Quarters near Dobbs's, July 21, 1781.

Sir: I have received yours of the 17th. And wish it was in my power to render your situation more agreable as to supplies of provision; Rum you say you have but little on hand then the Garrison is more fortunate than the Army for we have none.

The description you give of the troops that compose the Garrison I have too much reason to suppose has a very Sufficient foundation, as the persons employed by the different

[60] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

States to recruit their troops, seem to pay more attention to compleat the number required than to furnish able bodied men for the service.

The caution you use in forwarding the stores by Water, is very necessary as the communication for some days past has been totally stoped, at present in consequence of the return of the Ships, on the 18th. it is rendered as free as I can wish, I flatter myself that the injury they received in passing the Battery at Dobbs's ferry will in some measure deter them from making another attempt. one of them was set on fire, supposed to be by a Shell, in the confusion about 20 of her men leap'd over board one of which reach'd the shore and informs they were vastly injured as they passed.

When it becomes necessary to bring stores down the river the Commissarys and Qr. Masters will have particular orders for that purpose. I am &c.

P. S. The Commissary will be ordered to supply you with provision in some more convenient way than he does at present.[61]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WATERBURY

Head Quarters, July 21, 1781.

Sir: The Army will make a movement this Evening. You will march your Corps on the same route, and in such time and Manner as to be at East Chester between day break and sunrise; as directed in my Letter of the 14th. Your Troops should be supplied (if possible) with three days cooked provisions, and the Movement of the Army as well as of your Troops must be kept a secret until the Moment you march.

In order to prevent the Enemy from obtaining any intelligence whatever from us, I have ordered small parties to way-

[61] The draft is in the writing of William Stephens Smith.

lay all the Roads from the North River to East Chester. I must request you will send an Active Subaltern, and 20 Men with good Guides early this Afternoon across the Fields and Woods from Your Encampment to some good position for an Ambuscade, on the side of the road leading from New Rochel to East Chester, as near the latter as may be without hazard of discovery, this party must remain perfectly concealed, with Orders to apprehend all persons going towards Kings Bridge. It is essential your Party should not be seen by any Inhabitant, as this might frustrate the very object of our precautions. You will be convinced, Sir, by your own experience and good Sense that the profoundest secrecy is absolutely necessary in all Military Matters, and in no instance more indispensably so, than in movements towards the Enemy's Lines. I am etc.

P. S. After you have given all the necessary Orders, I could wish you would come to Hd Qrs and dine with me, as I may have many things to communicate personally to you.[62]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID FORMAN

Head Quarters, Dobbs Ferry, July 21, 1781.

Dear Sir: When I request your particular Care of the inclosed, it is necessary that I should inform you in fullest confidence, and under the strictest injunctions of secrecy, that the Count de Grasse may be shortly expected with his whole fleet from the West Indies. Whether he will first appear off the Hook or the capes of Virginia is uncertain. You will be pleased immediately, upon the receipt of this, to employ proper persons to keep a look out. The Moment that a Fleet of heavy ships is discovered you will dispatch an express to me, and as soon as you can ascertain whether they are friends or Foes,

[62] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

another. If they prove to be the former you will oblige me by going on board the Admiral and presenting the letter herewith. I have mentioned you to him as a Gentleman in whom he may place the fullest confidence.

That intelligence may be communicated from you to me with the utmost dispatch you will be pleased to take some of the militia Horse into pay and station them at such distances between Monmouth and Dobb's Ferry that they may perform the ride in twelve or fifteen hours. The Horsemen need not know the particular purpose for which they are stationed, but they must be ordered never to be a moment absent from their stages, except when upon duty. The expence attending these and the persons who keep a lookout I will be answerable for.

You will be so good as to give me by the return of this, or in the chain which you shall establish, the present situation, number, strength, and station of the Enemy's Ships; and as particular information of this kind may be very useful and consequential to me and to our French Allies, I beg you will continue to keep me informed from time to time of any alterations which take place, either respecting their increase or decrease of Numbers and strength, their different positions, and particular stations, within or without the Hook, that we may loose no advantages or suffer any misfortune for want of perfect information of the Enemy's strength, Positions, or movements. I am &c.[63] [N.Y.H.S.]

To COLONEL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, July 21, 1781.

Dr. Sir: The enclosed for General Forman is of so much importance that I do not care to trust it to a common hand.

[63] In the writing of Peregrine Fitzhugh.

If there should be an Officer in the Jersey Brigade who has any business in Monmouth he may be sent with it. If there is none under such circumstances, I must request you to send one on purpose. I am &c.[64]

To COLONEL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, Dobbs's ferry, July 21, 1781.

Dear Sir: You will this evening detach a party of 100 Men to take post upon the Heights at Fort Lee and those above it opposite to Spiten Devil and wherever any shipping may lay. I would wish the Officers to be intelligent and capable of observation, and to make remarks upon the seeming strength of the enemy if they turn out upon an Alarm and how they in such case dispose of their troops. The Business of the commanding Officer will particularly be to attend to any movement of the enemy by water. If he sees any considerable embarkation taking place in Vessels or Boats and they move up the River he will communicate the intelligence by the following signal; a large smoke from the Heights opposite the Mouth of Spiten Devil. The party will move time enough this Evening to be upon the Heights before day. It will go prepared for continuing out three days, unless sooner ordered in.[65] I am &c.

P. S. You will send a Captain and 50 to reinforce the post at Dobbs's on this side the River. They will come over this Evening.[64]

[64] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[65] Dayton reported the pasturage at Dobbs Ferry exhausted, and asked permission to move his camp on July 23.

"Again ordered abt. 500 Men to be ready to March at 8 o'clock, for the purpose of reconnoitring the enemy Posts at Kingsbridge and of cut off if possible, such of Delancys Corps as should be found without their lines. At the hour appointed the March commenced, in 4 columns, on different Roads. Majr. Genl. Parsons with the Connecticut Troops and 25 of Sheldons horse, formed the Right column (with two field pieces) on the No. River Road; the other Two divisions of the Army, under Majr. Generals Lincoln and Howe, together with the Corps of Sappers and Miners and 4 field pieces,

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD VARICK

Head Quarters near Dobbs's Ferry, July 21, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have received your Favor of the 19th. inst. and have to assure you that I am perfectly satisfied with your Care, Attention and Diligence, being fully persuaded that no unnecessary Delay has, or will take Place thro' your Means.

I have too much Reason to apprehend, that from our Circumstances and Situation at the Time, many Irregularities and much Confusion, have crept among the Papers of 1775 and 1776. I am persuaded your Care and Assiduity will reduce them to as much Order as they are capable of.

I think it will be very well to *enter* particularly the Answers and Opinions of the Genl Officers, together with the Questions stated to them and submitted to their Discussion, which may with propriety be done in a seperate Volume by themselves.[66]

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formed the Next column on the Saw Mill River Road. The right column of the French (on our left) consisted of the Brigade of Bourbonnis, with the Battn. of Grenadiers and Choissairs, 2 field pieces, and 2 twelve pounders, their left column was composed of the Legion of Lauzen, one Battn. of Grenadiers, and Choissairs of Soussonnis, 2 field pieces and 2 Howitzers. General Waterbury, with the Militia, and State Troops of Connecticut, was to march on the East Chester Road and to be joined at that place by the Cavalry of Sheldon, for the purpose of Scouring Frogs Neck. Sheldon's Infantry was to join the Legion of Lauzen for the purpose of Scouring Morrissania, and to be covered by Scammells light Infantry who were to advance thro' the fields, waylay the Roads, stop all communication, and prevent intelligence getting to the Enemy. . . . The whole Army (Parsons's division first) arrived at Kingsbridge about daylight, and formed on the heights back of Fort Independence extending towards delancy's Mills. While the Legion of Lauzen and Waterbury proceeded to scour the Necks of Morrisania and Frogs to little effect, as most of the Refugees were fled, and hid in such obscure places as not to be discovered; and by stealth got over to the Islands adjacent, and to the enemys Shipping which lay in the East River. a few however were caught and some cattle and horses brought off."—*Washington's Diary,* July 21, 1781.

"The enemy did not appear to have had the least intelligence of our Movement, or to know we were upon the heights opposite to them till the whole army was ready to display. After having fixed upon the ground, and formed our line, I began, with General Rochambeau and the Engineers, to reconnoitre the enemys position and Works."—*Washington's Diary,* July 22. The reconnaissance was completed on July 23, and Washington was at Dobbs Ferry again by July 24.

[66] The Varick Transcripts of the Councils of War fill three folio volumes.

I am much pleased with the Quarters you have taken at Poughkeepsie, and have not a Doubt of the Security of the public papers and Concerns in your Care. I am &c.[67]

To CAPTAIN JOHN PRAY

Head Quarters, July 21, 1781.

Sir: The same Movement which was mentioned in my Letter of the 14th. will be made this Evening; you will observe the same line of conduct as pointed out in that Letter; using particular vigilance to discover every motion of the Enemy, especially tomorrow night. I shall absolutely depend upon it, that the Enemy cannot move a single Vessel or Boat up the River or have any thing in agitation, without your immediately obtaining and communicating the knowledge of it to the Commanding Officer at Dobbs Ferry, and Col Scammell or the Officer on our Right.

You will please to deliver a Whale Boat to Capt Bushnell or his Order. I am &c.[68]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Kingsbridge,
Sunday, July 22, 1781.

Parole Versailles. Countersigns Lauzun, Le Val.

For the day Tomorrow
- Major General Lincoln
- Lieutenant Colonel Fernald
- Major Keith
- Inspector Captain Converse

The Troops will lay on their Arms and the officers will pay attention to their Platoons.

[67] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.
[68] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Kingsbridge,
Monday, July 23, 1781.

MORNING ORDERS

The Troops including Colonel Scammell's detachment and Sheldon's Legion to be served with a Gill of Rum pr man or in proportion if there be not quantity enough in Camp to give a Gill.

EVENING ORDERS

Parole New York. Countersigns Morisania, Frog's Neck.

For the day Tomorrow
- Major General Howe
- Lieutenant Colonel Hull
- For Picquet Major Morrell
- Inspector Captain Remick

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry,
Tuesday, July 24, 1781.

Parole Williamsburgh. Countersigns Jamestown, York.

For the day tomorrow
- Major General Parsons
- Colonel Greaton
- For Picket Major B. Porter
- Inspector Captain Drew[69]

Any persons that have taken up or shall hereafter take up any horses or Oxen in or near Camp belonging to the public are directed to deliver them to Major Cogswell, Waggon Master General immediately after so taking them up on pain of being tried and punished for disobedience of orders.

[69] Capt. Seth Drew, of the Second Massachusetts Regiment. He was appointed major of the Third Massachusetts Regiment in January, 1783, and served to June, 1783.

The Commander in Chief proposes to review the Continental Troops regimentally. The Adjutant General will notify the regiment to be reviewed a few hours beforehand when the Colonel (if not upon duty) and other officers of it and all the Men must be present or satisfactorily accounted for. For this purpose the rolls of each company must be present and called in the presence of the Commander in Chief.

The Major General of the Division and Brigadier or Officer commanding the Brigade to which the regiment belongs are to be present at these reviews and are to be informed of the Time and place accordingly.

The Commanding Officer of Artillery at Dobbs ferry will have a Centinel so posted as to see any movement of Shipping at the Enemy's Posts at King's bridge and is the moment he is certain that a Vessel is coming up the river to fire a Gun as a signal thereof. When lest this should not be heard Colonel Sheldon is to dispatch a Dragoon with the intelligence.

*To JOHN PARKE CUSTIS

Dobbs's ferry, July 25, 1781.

Dear Custis: Your letter of the 11th, covering certain proposals which were made by you to Mr. Robt. Alexander, came safe by the last Post. I read the latter with attention, and think they are founded on principles of liberality and justice; as far as I can form a judgment without seeing the Mortgage, or having recourse to the original Agreement, and the Missives which may have passed between you.

How far the purchase on your part, and the sale on Alexander's, was a matter of speculation at the time of bargaining, yourselves, and the nature of the agreement, *alone* can determine. If from the tenor of your contract you were to pay

paper money; if this paper money was at that time in a depreciated state; and the difference between it and Specie fixed and known; and if moreover, Alexander like many others, entertained an opinion that it would again appreciate, and a paper dollar become equal in value to a silver one, it might be more just than generous (as the money is in fact worth little or nothing now) to let him abide the consequences of his opinion by paying him in depreciated paper: because the presumption is, that he would have made no allowance for appreciation, tho' the former should be of equal value with the latter, pound for pound. But this as I have before observed depends upon the nature of the Bargain, and the light in which the matter was understood at the time it was made, by both parties.

If the Bargain was unaccompanied by particular circumstances, and had no explanatory meaning, but simply imported that so much Money was to be given for so much land, to be paid on or before a certain period; it is certainly optional in you to discharge it at any time you please short of that period; but I conceive that this can only be done by an actual tender of the money; and that, there is no other obligatn. or tye upon Alexr. to take your Bond (with any security whatever) but the fear of loosing the original debt, or the Interest of it, by refusing the tender you propose to make him, of £48,000 at this time; because I hold it as a maxim that no Man can be compelled to change the nature of his debt, or alter the security of it, without his own consent.

I have before said, that for want of the Mortgage, and a knowledge of all the circumstances attending your bargain, it is impossible for me to give a decided opinion. Your proposals appear to be fair and equitable; but what views Alexander may have had, and how far he is prepared to support himself in

those views by any written, or other valid proof, I am unable to say. As an honest man he ought to be content with Justice, and Juste. I think you have offered him.

You may recollect, that I disliked the terms of your bargain when they were 1st. communicated to me, and wished then that you might not find them perplexing and disadvantageous in the end; as I now do that you may settle the matter with honor, and satisfaction to yourself.

It gave me pain to hear that you had been so much afflicted with sickness among your People and that you thought your Son in danger. It would give me equal pleasure to learn that he, and the rest of your family, were restored to perfect health.

That so few of our Countrymen have joined the enemy, is a circumstance not less pleasing to me, than it must be mortifyingly convincing to them, of the falacy of their assertion that 2/3 of the people were in their Intert, and ready to join them when oppertunity offered; had this been the case the Marquis's force and the other 1/3 must have abandoned the Country. I am much pleased with your choice of a Governor. He is an honest man, active, spirited and decided, and will, I dare say, suit the times as well as any person in the State.[70]

You were lucky, considering the rout by which the enemy retreated to Williamsburg to sustain so little damage. I am of opinion that Lord Cornwallis will establish a strong post at Portsmouth, detach part of his force to New York, and go with the residue to So. Carolina. I returned yesterday from reconnoitring (with Count de Rochambeau and the Engineers of both Armies) the enemys works near Kings bridge; we lay close by them two days and a Night without any attempt on their part, to prevent it; they kept up a random Cannonade, but to very little effect. I am waiting impatiently for the Men

[70] Thomas Nelson, jr.

the States (this way) have been called upon for, that I may determine my plan, and commence my operations.

My best wishes attend Nelly Custis (who I hope is perfectly recovered) and the little girls. And my complimts. await enquiring friends. Sincerely and affectly. etc.

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, July 25, 1781.

Sir: The Officer by whom I sent my dispatch for Count de Grasse has returned from Monmouth and has brought me an answer from Genl. Forman to whom it is entrusted, and who promises to take the greatest care of it. The following is an extract of a letter from that Gentleman, which your Excellency will be pleased to communicate to Count de Barras, if you think proper.

"Saturday the 21st. of this month Adml. Graves with six or seven ships of the Line sailed from his station off Sandy Hook the Wind at South West. The Fleet steered about South East. Their destination not known, but conjectured to convey Lord Cornwallis from Chesapeak to New York."

General Furman confirms the account of the Royal Oak having gone to Hallifax to refit and adds that it is thought she will not be in condition for sea this season. I have the honor etc.[71]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WATERBURY

Head Quarters near Dobbs's ferry, July 25, 1781.

Dr Sir: The Cattle and Horses that your party tooke from Throgs point, West Chester and its Vicinity are not to be considered the property and at the disposal of the party who were

[71] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

employed in that Quarter, but must be appropriated to the public use you will therefore please to deliver the Cattle and sheep to the Order of Colo Stewart Commissary Genl. of Issues, and the Horses to the Qr. Mr. General, who have orders to settle with the owners if they appear to be the property of those who merit indulgence from us. I am &c.[72]

To SAMUEL HUNTINGTON

Head Quarters, Dobbs's Ferry, July 25, 1781.

Sir: I have been honored with your favor of the 10th. announcing your resignation of the Chair of Congress and the Election of Mr. McKean to that important Station.

I flattered myself with the hopes of an opportunity of personally acknowledging the attentions which I received from you during your presidency; but as I find you could not with convenience make a visit to the Army on your way home, I am constrained to take this method of returning my thanks and expressing my sincere wishes for the re-establishment of your health.

I am exceedingly happy to hear that our political Affairs begin to assume a new and pleasing appearance, which if continued, will I hope have an influence upon the Military. That department is yet labouring under every difficulty and distress, and there seems to me little chance of its being relieved from the debility to which it is reduced; for notwithstanding my pressing requisitions for men, and the more pressing occasion which there is for them at this moment, I may almost say I have not received one Man since my last demand.

The station which you have lately filled with so much honor has given you an opportunity of making yourself intimately

[72] The draft is in the writing of William Stephens Smith.

acquainted with our real situation, and a representation from you to your state will naturally have more weight than that of a stranger to public affairs. Be assured sir you cannot employ your time better at home than in constantly impressing all Ranks with the necessity of recruiting and supplying the Army. I have the honor etc.[73]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry,
Wednesday, July 25, 1781.

Parole Luxemburgh. Countersigns Bourdeaux, Lisle.

For the day tomorrow
Brigadier General Glover
Colonel H. Jackson
For Picquet Major Spurr [74]
Inspector Captain Smith [75]

The Commanding officers of regiments are desired to use every possible endeavour to instruct the recruits in the essential parts of their duty as fast as they join their respective Corps that they may be qualified for actual service.

Lieutenant Kirkpatrick [76] late of Colonel Spencer's regiment is appointed Captain Lieutenant in the Corps of Sappers and miners and is to be respected and obeyed accordingly.

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[73] The draft, in the writing of Tench Tilghman, is addressed to Huntington at Norwich, Conn.

This same day (July 25) Washington sent a brief note to Maj. Gen. Alexander McDougall, requesting that he regularly report "the number of Militia which shall arrive from time to time at your Post." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

[74] Maj. John Spurr, of the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment. He retired in January, 1783.

[75] Capt. David Smith, of the Eighth Connecticut Regiment. His rank as major dates, however, from March, 1778. He was transferred to the Second Connecticut Regiment in January, 1783, and served to June, 1783.

[76] Lieut. David Kirkpatrick, of Spencer's Additional Continental regiment. He had retired in January, 1781; was wounded at Yorktown, Va., in October, 1781; served to June, 1783.

To COLONEL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters near Dobbs's ferry, July 25, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have rec'd yours of the 23d. You must consider your present post of importance and the nearer you are to the point to be defended the greater will be its security it would therefore be more proper should the ground be eligible to pitch your Camp as near as possible to the Block [77] than to occupy a position one or two miles either to the right or left.

The sending your horses to pasture even at the distance of three miles would not render you subject to the inconveniencies and the post to that hazard that might originate from your taking a similar position with the Brigade. I should thank you for information whether the Letter directed to Genl. Forman is forwarded and by whom. I am etc.[78]

To JOHN HURLBUT, HUGH FORSEMON, JOHN HURLBUT, AND JABEZ SILL

Head Quarters, Dobbs's Ferry, July 25, 1781.

Gentlemen: I have recd. your favor of the 5th.[79] with Copies of letters from Governor Reed to Colonel Hunter [80] Lieutenant of Northumberland County and to the Commissioner of purchases for the same County. These letters contain no orders

[77] The letter sent, which was sold at auction in 1895, had the word "House" at this point.

[78] The draft is in the writing of William Stephens Smith. The letter sent had the following P. S., which does not appear in the draft: "The officer that was detached to Fort Lee has not forwarded his report." This was Capt. Nathaniel Bowman, whose report, dated July 25, 1781, is in the *Washington Papers*.

[79] In the *Washington Papers*. It is signed in the same hand by John Hurlbut and Hugh Forsemon as "Authority," and by Hurlburt and Jabez Sill, as "Selectmen" of Wyoming, Pa.

[80] Col. Samuel Hunter, county lieutenant of Northumberland.

of any kind whatever to Capt. Mitchell,[81] but barely relate to supplying the present Garrison with provisions, which by arrangements made by me are to be furnished out of the supplies demanded by the Continent from the State of Penna. Capt. Mitchell cannot therefore with propriety draw any thing from Mr. Seward.[82]

You may be assured Gentlemen that it is my inclination as well as my duty to carry the intent of Congress fully into execution and that I should not scruple to remove an Officer from Command were I to find proof of his having acted with partiality either towards the State of Pennsylvania or that of Connecticut, but as it does not appear, by the testimony which has been produced by you, that Capt. Mitchell has yet conducted himself in a manner to deserve censure, I cannot consistent with military Rule remove him from his present command. I am &c.[83]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry,
Thursday, July 26, 1781.

Parole Annapolis. Countersigns Baltimore, Elk.

For the day tomorrow
- Brigadier General Patterson
- Colonel Swift
- For Picquet Major Oliver
- Inspector Captain Robinson[84]

The Court Martial whereof Colonel Putnam is President will assemble tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.

[81] Capt. Alexander Mitchell, of the First New Jersey Regiment. He served to April, 1783.

[82] ——— Seward. He was assistant commissary of issues at Connecticut.

[83] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[84] Capt. Caleb Robinson, of the Second New Hampshire Regiment. He was promoted to major in October, 1781, and retired in March, 1782.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL LOUIS LE BÈQUE DU PORTAIL

Head Quarters, July 26, 1781.

Sir: I am directed by the Commander in Chief to transmit to you the inclosed Copy of Charges made against Majr Moreman[85] by Capt Billings,[86] upon which His Excellency desires you will order Majr Moreman under an Arrest. At the Same Time the General desires that Major Moreman's charges against Capt Livermore[87] may be transmitted to the Adjutant General, who has Orders to have Livermore put into Arrest, as soon as the Charges are exhibited, *as he was not to be seen last Evening.*

A Court will be ordered for the Trial of the Gentlemen upon their several Charges. I am etc.[88]

To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL

Head Quarters, Dobbs's ferry, July 27, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have ordered the Light Company of Cortlands Regt. to West Point, as soon as it arrives you will be pleased to send that and the light Company of Van Schaicks to join the Army. And you will also be pleased to make me a Return upon the first of Augt. of the number of Militia which have

[85] Maj. Jean Bernard Gauthier de Murnans, of the Continental Engineers. He was brevet lieutenant colonel of the Continental Army in September, 1783, and resigned in February, 1784. Congress passed a resolve expressive of their sense of his abilities and services, Feb. 3, 1784. He was accused of attacking a sentinel on post at Dobbs Ferry; of attempting to take away a boat under the care of the sentry; and of unofficerlike and ungentlemanlike behavior.

[86] Capt. Stephen Billings, of the Second Connecticut Regiment. He retired in January, 1783.

[87] Capt. Daniel Livermore, of the First New Hampshire Regiment. He was dismissed in August, 1781; reinstated that same month; retired in March, 1782.

[88] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "J. Trumbull."

come in to that time, specifying the States to which they belong. I am &c.

P. S. You will be pleased to be punctual in sending the Return, as I want it for a particular purpose.[89]

To COLONEL ALEXANDER SCAMMELL

Head Quarters, July 27, 1781.

Dr. Sr: I am informed by Capt Pray of the Water Guard that there is a quantity of Forage, lately deposited on the Banks of the North River between Philips's and Kings Bridge, by Order of Col Wurmb,[90] for the purpose of being transported by Water to the Enemy. You will be pleased to have a party of Infantry and Cavalry detached, from your Command and Col Sheldon's Corps, to ascertain at what place or places the Hay is, whether it can be brought off, what quantity there is supposed to be, and how many Carts or Waggons will be necessary for the transportation. I shall expect your Report as soon as conveniently may be. With great regard &c.[91]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL SYLVANUS SEELY

Head Quarters near Dobb's Ferry, July 27, 1781.

Sir: I am informed By Colo Dayton that a Number of Militia collecting from the State of N Jersey and Rendezvousing at Morristown, have dispersed to their Homes for Want of Provisions at the Place of their Rendezvous. to prevent Any Misfortune of the like Nature in future, I have to Desire that you

[89] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[90] Col. Frederich Wilhelm Wurmb, of the First Hessian Regiment, German allied troops, British Army.

[91] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

immediately march off to Dobbs's Ferry all the Militia which are already collected, and let the Remainder, as fast as they are drawn out, rendezvous at the same Place, or Tappan, where they will join the Jersey Brigade. You will be pleased to give me Information of your Proceedings from Time to Time, as the Collection is made. I am &c.[92]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry, Friday, July 27, 1781.

Parole Flanders. Countersigns Calais, Ushant.

For the Day tomorrow { Brigadier General Huntington / Colonel Webb / For Picquet Major Trescot / Inspector Captain Warner.[93]

At a General Court Martial held at Morristown 27th June 1781, of which Lieutenant Colonel De Hart was President.

Corporal William Gibbs and John Davis private, both of the First New Jersey regiment were tried for "Marauding" Convicted and sentenced to suffer Death.

The Commander in Chief approves their sentence; but at the intercession of Colonel Dayton in favor of Corporal Gibbs and of the Court in favor of John Davis he is pleased to pardon them and directs that they may be released from their confinement and join their regiment.

John Adam, Deputy Commissary of Prisoners appeared before the same General Court martial charged with sundry offences; but no person appearing to prosecute him the Court are of opinion he ought to be released from his Arrest.

[92] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[93] Capt. Robert Warner, of the First Connecticut Regiment. He was promoted to major in May, 1782, and retired in January, 1783.

The Commander in Chief is of the same opinion and orders that Mr. Adam be released from his Arrest and return to his Duty.

The Attendance of the Drum and Fife Majors on the superintendant of Music will for the present be dispensed with that they may attend to the instruction of the Drummers and fifers of their respective regiments who are to practise from five to six o'clock every morning and from four to five o'clock every afternoon.

Colonel Crane's Band of Music will attend the Grand Parade every Morning.

A General Court Martial whereof Colonel H. Jackson is appointed President will assemble tomorrow at ten o'Clock A M at the Presidents Marquee or such other place as he shall appoint, for the trial of Captain Livermore of the first New Hampshire regiment and all such persons as may be brought before them. Lieutenant Colonels Vose, Olney, Reid, Hamilton and Gouvion; Captain Treadwell of the Artillery; a Captain from Sheldon's Legion. A Captain from the first and one from the second Connecticut Brigades one Captain from the first and one from the second Massachusetts brigades and one Captain from the New Hampshire brigade will attend as Members.

All Evidences and persons concerned are requested to attend the event.

An orderly serjeant from each Division to attend the Court Martial.

On the First of August an exact Return is to be made to the orderly Office of all the Recruits which have joined the different States Lines and the Artillery in the Course of the present Month and whether any or how many have been dismissed.

*To BRIGADIER GENERAL LOUIS LE BÈQUE DU PORTAIL

Camp, July 28, 1781.

Dear Sir: The subject you have written upon, is equally perplexing and incomprehensible to my understanding. I will talk more fully to you thereon when we meet at two Oclock. In the meanwhile I am etc.[94]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry,
Saturday, July 28, 1781.

Parole New Windsor. Countersigns Fishkill, Crompond.

For the day Tomorrow
- Major General Heath
- Colonel Tupper
- For Picquet Major Gibbs
- Inspector Captain Converse

The Commander in Chief desires that the General officer of the day may every morning exercise the Troops assembled on the Grand Parade in such manœuvres and Evolutions as he thinks most necessary to fit the men for immediate Service agreeable to the rules prescribed by the regulations for the discipline of the Army.

That the number may be more Respectable the Camp Guards of each brigade after being formed on their respective brigade

[94] Du Portail's letter (July 27, 1781) suggested that Barras enter the harbor of New York while the British fleet was then absent. His argument was that the French naval officers were convinced that the harbor could not be forced "when there are some ships to defend it. if so. why would not admiral du barras in this absence of the british fleet Render himself master of the harbour. he runs no Risk. he could penetrate every where." Du Portail's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

Washington's draft of the above reply is written on the verso of Du Portail's letter of July 27.

Parades will march to the Grand Parade to be incorporated with the Picquets and other Guards usually formed there for Exercise.

Untill further Orders the Guards will be on the Grand Parade precisely at six o'clock A M the Adjutants who accompany the details from the different Brigades to the Grand Parade will remain with them untill the Inspector for the day is satisfied that their Numbers are right and that the men are properly dressed and equipt for duty for which the Inspector who first formed them must be accountable.

To PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED

Head Quarters, Dobbs Ferry, July 28, 1781.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellencys Letter of the 18th inst., and observe with much Pleasure the Train into which the recruitg the proposed Rifle Corps is thrown, and hope they will soon be obtained. As this Body of Men will be exceedingly essential to our Designs, and may be very usefully employed in Detachments, I have to beg of your Excellency that you will be pleased to give Orders, that as fast as they are recruited, they may be marched off for this Camp in small Parties from twenty to thirty in a Party, as they are collected, with proper Officers to conduct the Parties: in this Mode our Operations may not be delayed by waiting for the whole Corps to be compleated before we receive the Benefits of their Services.

I am rejoiced to be informed the Prospects you have for filling the Line of your Continental Troops, and most sincerely hope your Success may be equal to your most sanguine Expectations.

The inclosed Letter for Majr Parr, is left open for your Excellency's Observation, and is recommended to your particular Care to be forwarded. I have the Honor etc.[95] [H. S. P.]

To MAJOR THOMAS PARR

Head Quarters, Dobbs's ferry, July 28, 1781.

Sir: I am pleased to find by a letter from His Excellency president Reed that you have accepted of the command of the Corps of Rifle Men which are to be raised in Pennsylvania and that there is a probability that the Men will be obtained. As their services are immediately wanted, you will be pleased to send them to Camp in parties from 20 to thirty under the charge of an Officer.

I observe by the Recruiting instructions that the Men are to be paid for the use of their Rifles if they bring them into the field; this leaves the matter optional, and if a considerable part of them should come unarmed we shall be put to very great difficulties on that account, as we have but few Rifles belonging to the Continent. You will therefore recommend it to the recruiting Officers to procure as many Arms in the Country as they possibly can. I am &c.[96]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry, Sunday, July 29, 1781.

Parole Bretaigne. Countersigns Montpellier, Rochfort.

For the day tomorrow	Major General Lord Stirling
	Colonel Butler
	For Picquet Major Clift
	Inspector Captain Remick

[95] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[96] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

The Commander in Chief requests the Company of the Majors of the Picquet at dinner the day succeeding their tour of duty.

Commanding officers of Corps are desired to see that their Men are provided with stoppers for their Musquets.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, near Dobbs Ferry,
Monday, July 30, 1781.

Parole Springfield. Countersigns Kingstreet, Horseneck.

For the Day tomorrow
Major General Lincoln
Lieutenant Colonel C Smith
For Picquet Major Knapp
Inspector Captain Drew

The General observes that it has become a practice in the Army to send the Teams a considerable distance from Camp for the sake of Pasturage during the Night; as it is a circumstance that runs directly counter to his intentions an effectual stop must be immediately put to it; and some plan adopted to furnish the Cattle with Forage at their respective stations there to remain from Retreat beating untill Guard mounting in the morning; when they may be returned to Pasture or continued upon Forage as Circumstances may require.

Untill further Orders the Troop is to beat a quarter of an hour after five o'clock for which reason the Music will not practice in the morning untill the Grand Parade is dismissed.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Dobbs Ferry, July 30, 1781.

Sir: I have the Honor to acknowledge the Receipt of your Excellency's Favor of the 26th inst. covering a Correspondence

between the Marquis L'Fayette and Earl Cornwallis. I am obliged by this early Transmission of the Papers, and have the Honor to concur in sentiment with your Excellency in the probable future Movements of the Enemy under Command of His Lordship. This Conjecture is already verified in part by the Arrival of a Fleet at the Hook last Friday, havg on Board two Battalions of Infantry and part of the Legion, this Intelligence is brot me by a Deserter just now come in from N York.

The Army under my imediate Command, remains in the Position it has held for some Time past, how soon the States will enable me, by a Supply of the requested Succours, to move nearer to the Enemy, is a Point, still attended with great Uncertainty.

I take the Liberty to send under Cover to your Excellency, the inclosed Letter for the Marquis and beg your particular Care and Attention that it may be forwarded by a safe and early Conveyance. I have the Honor etc.[97]

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Head Quarters near Dobbs ferry, July 30, 1781.

My Dear Sir: With peculiar Satisfaction, I do myself the Honor to acknowledge the Receipt of your several Favrs. of the 10th. 14th. and 16th. of May last, with that of the 22d June; and to assure you at the same Time, that it is with the Warmest Pleasure I express my full Approbation of the various Movements and Operations which your Military Conduct has lately exhibited; while I confess to you that I am unable to conceive what more could have been done, under your Circumstances, than has been displayed by your little persevering and determined Army.

[97] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

Lord Rawdon's Reinforcement, from England, was a most untoward Circumstance; but even this, I hope will soon be surmounted by your good Fortune.

You will be informed from the Marquis of every Circumstance that has taken place in Virginia. A Detachment from the Army of this Brave and fortunate young Nobleman, will I hope, soon arrive to your Assistance in Carolina.

By our movements in this Quarter and the Main Army taking a Position near to New York, and makg every Preparation for a serious Attempt upon that Place, we have already produced One Happy Effect, that of a Withdraw of considerable Part of the Troops under the Command of Lord Cornwallis, as a Reinforcement to their Garrison, which has been some Time past closely confined to York Island. This Withdraw will probably disappoint their Views of Conquest in Virginia, and will exceedingly embarrass the Prospects of the British Ministry in the proposed Treaty opened at Vienna; a very great object this, should any Thing prevent our obtaing any further Success in our Operations against N York.

The operating Force of the Enemy in the Southern States, being confined in all probability to So Carolina, will leave the other States in a condition to afford you such Succours, as with the Aid of the Marquis's Detachment, will I hope enable you to fullfil your Hopes and Wishes in their utmost Extent in your Command; should this Event take place, you may be assured, that added to the Consideration of the public good, which will result therefrom, the Honor that will be thereby reflected on your own Person, will afford me the highest Satisfaction.

I sincerely wish we had the Means of communicating more frequently with each other than has been lately experienced; be assured Sir, my Concern for your Honor and Welfare,

interests me most particularly in every Event which attends you. I am &c.

P. S. A particular Reason which cannot at this time be communicated induces me to request you will be pleased to give me the earliest and most minute Information of every Event that takes Place with you, with a circumstantial Detail of the present Situation of the State of So Carolina; their Strength and operative Force, with their Resources for the Support of an Army, and the Extent of those Resources, with the Places where they may be collected and secured; also the Strength, Position and Circumstances attendg the Enemys Force.[98]

To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Head Quarters near Dobbs's ferry, July 30, 1781.

My dear Marquis: I have had the pleasure of receiving your favours of the 8th. and 20th. instants. The first relieved me from much anxiety, as I had seen Mr. Rivingtons account of the action at Green Spring, which you may suppose was highly coloured in their favor.

I find by your last that neither my letter of the 29th. of June, or that of the 13th. instant had reached you. I cannot tell the dates of those previous as I have but few papers with me. I will confess to you that I have written much seldomer than I wished to do, but it has been owing to the very great danger to which dispatches were exposed while Lord Cornwallis was in possession of the Country.

You ask my opinion of the Virginia Campaign? Be assured, my dear Marquis, your Conduct meets my warmest approbation, as it must that of every body. Should it ever be said that

[98] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

my attachment to you betrayed me into partiality, you have only to appeal to facts to refute any such charge: but I trust there will be no occasion.

I very much approve of your intention of reinforcing General Greene as soon as circumstances will admit and as strongly as possible. If he can only maintain the advantages he has already gained in the Carolinas and Georgia the British Ministry will make a very different figure in the political scene, to what it is plain they expected from Lord George Germaine's letters of March last.

I refer you to my private letter, which accompanies this, and am, with the tenderest Regard, etc.

P. S. The Maps you mention have not come to hand. Your servant may perhaps have them. He did not come himself to Head Quarters. The Letters were received from an Express.[99]

To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Head Quarters near Dobbs's ferry, July 30, 1781.

My dear Marquis: I take your private letter of the 20th. of this Month in the light which you wish it; that of an unreserved Communication from one Friend to another; and I should be wanting in Candor were I not to expose my sentiments to you in as free a manner.

I am convinced that your desire to be with this Army arises principally from a wish to be actively useful. You will not therefore regret your stay in Virginia untill matters are reduced to a greater degree of certainty than they are at present, especially when I tell you, that, from the change of circumstances with which the removal of part of the Enemy's force from Virginia to New York will be attended, it is more than prob-

[99] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

able that we shall also intirely change our plan of operations. I think we have already effected one part of the plan of Campaign settled at Weathersfield, that is, giving a substantial relief to the southern States by obliging the enemy to recall a considerable part of their force from thence. Our views must now be turned towards endeavouring to expel them totally from those States, [if we find ourselves incompt. to the seige of N. Y.] The difficulty of doing this does not so much depend upon obtaining a force capable of effecting it, as upon the mode of collecting that force to the proper point, and transporting the provisions, Stores &c. necessary for such an operation. You are fully acquainted with the almost impracticability of doing this by land; to say nothing of the amazing loss of Men always occasioned by long marches, and those towards a quarter in which the service is disagreeable. I should not however hesitate in encountering these difficulties great as they are, had we not prospects of transporting ourselves in a manner safe, easy and expeditious. Your penetration will point out my meaning, which I cannot venture to express in direct terms.

I approve your resolution to reinforce General Greene in proportion to the detachment which the enemy may make to New York. Let your next attention be paid to training and forming the Militia with which you may be furnished and disposing of them in such a manner that they may be drawn at the shortest notice to whatever point the enemy make their capital post, and which I conclude will be at portsmouth. The establishment of Magazines at safe deposits will be in all cases necessary; but above all things I recommend an augmentation of your Cavalry to as great a height as possible. It may happen that the enemy may be drove to the necessity of forcing their way thro' North Carolina to avoid a greater misfortune. A

superiority of Horse upon our side would be fatal to them in such a case.

The advantages resulting from a move of the French Fleet from Newport to Chesapeak were early and strongly pointed out to Count de Barras and I thought he had once agreed to put it into execution, but by his late letters, he seem'd to think that such a maneuvre might interfere with greater plans and therefore he declined it. It would now be too late to answer the principal object, as by accounts from a deserter, the troops arrived from Virginia last Friday.

Should your Return to this Army be finally determined, I cannot flatter you with a command equal to your expectations or my wishes. You know the over proportion of General Officers to our numbers and can therefore conceive where the difficulty will lie. General Mcdougal is not yet provided for and the Jersey and York troops are reserved for him, [they are promis'd to him tho'] they have not yet joined.

In my letter to General Greene, which I beg the favor of you to forward, I have hinted nothing of what I have said to you, for fear of a miscarriage. You will probably find a safe opportunity from your Army to him and you will oblige me by communicating the part of this letter which relates to my [expectation] of being able to transport part of this Army to the southward, should the operation against New York be declined.

I wish, as I mentioned in my last, to send a confidential person to you to explain at large what I have so distantly hinted, but I am really at a loss [for want of knowing the Officr better], to find one upon whose discretion I can depend. My own family you know are constantly and fully employed. I however hope I have spoken plain enough to be understood by you. [With every sentimt. of Affectn.] etc.[1]

[1]The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. The portions in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, Dobbs Ferry, July 30, 1781.

Sir: Yesterday I was honored by the Receipt of your Excellencys Favor of the 28th. Sensible of the importance of supportg the Northern and Western Frontier of your State, Measures were taken for that Purpose, by calling for the Militia of the State of Massa., as early as the Resolution for drawing off the Regular Troops, was adopted, and my letter of the 25th June requestg Goverr Hancock to Order 600 Militia from the Western Counties of that State to march to Albany, was forwarded to him without Delay. This Requisition I had Reason to suppose had been early complied with, untill your Favor informed the Contrary. In confidence however that the Orders have been given; but yet that no further Delay may happen, I have this day addressed Govr Hancock again on the Subject, requestg that the Requisition may be fully and punctually complied with.

I am Happy in being well assured of your Zeal and Activity in forwarding the Levies of this State for the Public Service and trust they will be ready by the Time you mention. I assure your Excellency of a most hearty Welcome on my Part, whenever your Convenience will admit your paying a Visit at Camp. I am etc.[2]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ANTHONY WAYNE

Head Quarters, Dobb's Ferry, July 30, 1781.

Dear Sir: I with the greatest Pleasure received your Acco. of the Action at Green Spring; as I had just before seen it thro' the Channel of Mr. Rivington, and you may therefore suppose

[2] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

in the most unfavorable light. The Marquis de la Fayette speaks in the handsomest Manner of your own Behaviour and that of the Troops under your Command in the Action.[3]

I think the Account which Lord Cornwallis will be obliged to render of the State of Southern Affairs will not be very pleasing to the Ministerial Eyes and Ears, especially after what appears to have been their Expectations by their intercepted Letters of March last.

I am in hopes that Virginia will be soon, if not before this Time so far relieved as to permit you to march to the Succour of Genl. Greene, who with a handfull of Men has done more than could possibly have been expected; should he be enabled to maintain his Advantages in the Carolinas and Georgia, it cannot fail of having the most important political Consequences in Europe.

Be pleased to make my Compliments to Colonels Butler and Stewart and the Gentlemen of the Line. I cannot but feel myself interested in the Welfare of those to whose gallant Conduct I have so often been a Witness. I am etc.[4] [H. S. P.]

To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

Head Quarters, July 30, 1781.

Sir: I did myself the honour to address your Excelly. under the 25th June last, requestg that you would be pleased to order 600, of the Militia of your State, which I supposed to be raising under a former Requisition, to be sent to Albany for the Protection of the Northern and Western Frontier of the

[3] Lafayette's letter of July 8, 1781, reporting the action at Green Spring, Va., is not now found in the *Washington Papers*. Wayne's letter to Washington of the same date, however, fully describing the action, is in the *Washington Papers*. It is printed in Sparks's *Letters to Washington*, vol. 3, p. 347.

[4] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

State of N York; to this Letter (as indeed to several others of much earlier Date) I have not had the Honor of a Reply, so that I am to this Day uninformed if those Orders are yet given. What leads me to fear they are not, is a Letter I have Yesterday received from Govr Clinton, informg that no Militia from your State had arrived at Albany, and inclosing a Copy of a Letter dated 23d instant from Genl. Fellows to Colo Willet, commandg on the Frontiers in which he mentions that the Orders for raising your Militia were but recently received in that Part of the State; and that no Orders had been received for any Part to march to Albany; under these Circumstances, and from a Consideration of the great Importance of supporting the Frontier by the Aid of Militia, upon the Withdraw of the Regular Troops, (which has in a great Measure taken place) I am induced again to trouble your Excelly with my most earnest Request, that if your Orders in Consequence of my Requisition of the 25th June, have not yet issued, that they may immediately be sent forward. I am etc.[5]

*To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Camp at Dobbs's ferry, Westchester Cty., July 30, 1781.

My dear Sir: I have received and thank you for your private letter of the of June. With much sincerity, and with no less pleasure, I convey to you my high approbation of your conduct, which is not a little increased by knowing that I am not singular in this opinion.

I have a great many things which I want to commit to you, *confidentially,* to paper I dare not trust them, and if I can, readily, meet with a character out of my own family, that I can unfold myself to, I will send to you in a short time.

[5] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

Your letters to Mrs. Green I have put under cover, and forwarded. I shall only say that at all times, and under all circumstances, I am etc.[6]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry,
Tuesday, July 31, 1781.

Parole Montmorency. Countersigns Strasburgh, Havre.

For the Day Tomorrow	Major General Howe Lieutenant Colonel Mellen For Picquet Major Keith Inspector Captain Smith

The Light Companies of the first and second regiments of New York (upon their arrival in Camp) with the two companies of York Levies under command of Captains Sackett and Williams[7] will form a Battalion under command of Lieutenant Colonel Hamilton and Major Fish.

After the formation of the Battalion Lieutenant Colonel Hamilton will join the Advanced Corps under the Orders of Colonel Scammell.

At a Division General Court Martial held by order of Major General Lincoln whereof Colonel Putnam was President.

John Howley, Private in the seventh Massachusetts regiment, charged with "Desertion" was tried found guilty, and sentenced to suffer Death.

The Commander in Chief approves the sentence but from the late good behaviour of the Army he is induced to pardon him, expecting his future behaviour will be such as may justify this Act of Clemency.

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[6] From the *Nathanael Greene Papers* in the Library of Congress.
[7] Capts. William Sackett and Daniel Williams.

The Brigade Quarter Masters and Conductors and the regimental Clothiers are called on to deliver in person at the Adjutant General's Office at Orderly time tomorrow an exact account of every Article in their several Departments delivered to and return'd by the different regiments they act for, between the time of making the Last Returns before the Army moved to Peekskill and this day inclusive.

The Brigade Commissaries will at the same time deliver a Return of the number of Rations issued to each regiment between the first of June last, and this day inclusive distinguishing the number drawn in June and that in July.

The Assistant Inspector General will himself superintend the Mustering and inspecting the Regiments of Infantry now in Camp on the following days and in the following order vizt. August 2d. A. M: the first and second Connecticut and first Massachusetts regiments. P. M: second Massachusetts, first New Hampshire and third Massachusetts regiments. August 3d. A. M: the fifth and fourth Connecticut and seventh Massachusetts regiments. P. M: the eighth Massachusetts second New Hampshire and Ninth Massachusetts regiments. August 4th A. M: The third Connecticut, Olneys, and fourth Massachusetts regiments. P. M: the fifth, tenth, and sixth Massachusetts regiments.

The Muster rolls and other accounts are to be prepared accordingly and the regiments excused duty on the days on which they are Mustered.

The Regimental Quarter masters will be provided with Inventories of the several Articles delivered by them and supposed to be in the possession of the Field and staff officers and the different Companies of their respective regiments as they are all to be produced at the time of Inspection.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID FORMAN

Head Quarters, Dobb's Ferry, July 31, 1781.

Sir: I have desired Capt Dobbs to assemble at Capt Dennis's at Baskenridge as soon as possible, a number of Pilots, who are to receive their further Instructions at that Place from you. Immediately upon the Appearance of a Fleet near Sandy Hook, and you are satisfied it is the one we are expecting, you will please to give order to the Pilots to repair down, where they may be at Hand to be improved as Occasion and Circumstances shall require.

I am very fearful that you have met with more Trouble in Establishg the Chain of Expresses than was expected, as I have not had the Pleasure of hearing from you since your first Favor of 23rd. inst. And I am informed from N York that a fleet with Part of the Army of Lord Cornwallis arrived at that Place last Friday. My Anxiety to be well and early informed of the Enemys Movements by Water, induces me to wish to hear from you as often and as speedily as any material Circumstance renders it necessary. I am &c.[8]

To CAPTAIN WILLIAM DOBBS

Head Quarters near Dobbs's ferry, July 31, 1781.

Sir: On the receipt of this, I wish you to procure a number of those Pilots that you formerly engag'd, and who are particularly acquainted with the Navigation of the Hook and North River, and with them repair as soon as possible to Captain Dennis's at Baskenridge, where you will continue 'till you receive further orders from Genl. Forman of Monmouth County; after you have procur'd the Pilots and sent them

[8] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

forward to Baskenridge, I should think it best for you to come by the way of Head Quarters, where you may receive any further instructions you think necessary.

As you'll naturally conjecture the reasons for this application, I must injoin upon you not to mention your thoughts to any body, and as much as possible, to prevent the Pilots you engage making known their business. I am &c.[9]

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, August 1, 1781.

Dear Sir: Inclosed are three plans for settling the mode of succession in the Medical department. They have been submitted to me by the Board of War, but previous to giving my opinion, I shall be glad to be favored with those of the General Officers. You will be pleased to call them together as soon as convenient and report to me which plan they seem to approve, with any amendments which may appear to them necessary.

The Director and Chief Physician of the Army will attend the Board of Officers should they have occasion to ask them any questions upon the business. I am &c.[10] [MS. H.S.]

To CALEB DAVIS[11]

Head Quarters, Dobbs's Ferry, August 1, 1781.

Sir: With Pleasure I do myself the Honor to acknowledge the Receipt of your Favor of 5th of June last, with the two Cheeses and Cask of Porter which accompanied it. Will you Sir, be pleased to do me the Favor to convey to the

[9] The draft is in the writing of David Cobb.
[10] In the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[11] Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

Commonwealth of Massa. Bay and to Capt. Sampson, my sincere and respectable Thanks for this generous and very acceptable Present. I have the Honor etc.[12]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, near Dobbs Ferry,
Wednesday, August 1, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersign ———.

For the Day Tomorrow
- Major General Parsons
- Lieutenant Colonel Sherman
- For Picquet Major Morrell[13]
- Inspector Robinson[14]

At a General Court Martial whereof Colonel Putnam is President.

Micajah Fay a Soldier in the 5th. Massachusetts regiment, and William Connor a soldier of the 3d. Massachusetts regiment, both charged with "Desertion" were tried and found guilty of a breach of Article 1st, Section 6th of the Rules and Articles of War and sentenced each to receive one hundred Lashes on his bare back.

John Car of the Seventh and Whitney Shanway of the Eighth Massachusetts regiments, both Charged with "Desertion" were tried and found Guilty as above and sentenced each to receive Fifty Lashes on his naked back.

Mark Noble a soldier charged with "Desertion" from the first Massachusetts regiment and reinlisting in the Rhode

[12] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[13] Major Amos Morrill (Morrell), of the Second New Hampshire Regiment. He was retained in the First New Hampshire Battalion in March, 1782, and served to the close of the war.

[14] Capt. Caleb Robinson, of the Second New Hampshire Regiment. He was made brigade inspector in July, 1781, and major in October, 1781; retired in March, 1782.

Island Regiment was tried, found guilty of a breach of the first and third Articles Section 6th. of the Rules and Articles of War and sentenced to receive one hundred Lashes on his bare back.

Sterling Heath of the second New Hampshire regiment, John Smith and Stephen Atkinson of the first New Hampshire regiment charged with "Desertion and attempting to go to the enemy" being convicted, were sentenced each of them to receive one hundred Lashes on his bare back.

James Whitmore soldier in the first New Hampshire Regiment, charged with "Desertion" was tried, convicted and sentenced to receive one hundred Lashes on his bare back.

At the same Court, Ensign Samuel Thompson of the first New Hampshire regiment, charged with "Overstaying his furlough upwards of fifteen months and neglecting and refusing to rejoin his regiment when notified and required so to do by the commanding officer of his regiment, was tried agreeably to a Resolve of Congress of December 6th 1779 respecting absent officers.

The Court are of opinion the charge against Ensign Samuel Thompson is supported and do sentence him to be cashier'd.

The Commander in Chief approves the foregoing sentences and orders them to be carried into execution immediately.

The prohibitions against plundering any species of Property from the inhabitants of the Country however unfriendly they may be have been repeated so frequently and in such positive terms that the General flatters himself there is no occasion to give any further cautions to the Army on this subject; but he has been inform'd that some of the followers of the Army and Volunteers not under the orders of any officers have taken advantage of the Position and movement of the Army in

some instances to seize the Property of the inhabitants for their own use.

In order, to prevent such practices in future and to be in a situation of rendering service to their Country All Volunteers are to be formed into Companies under the Command of an Officer or Officers appointed by the Authority of their State or the Election of the Company: such Officers will report themselves and the State of their Commands to the Adjutant General.

Any persons (except such as comply with the foregoing regulation) found with or without Arms in the front flank or Rear of the army who cannot give a good account of themselves are to be apprehended and committed to the Provost.

Whenever any Cattle or horses are taken in action or recaptured in any manner from the Enemy they are in the first instance to be produced to the Waggon master General of the American Army who will take a description of them in writing, noting particularly their natural and Artificial marks: He will keep possession of them untill he has reported the matter to the Quarter master General and received his instructions.

All applications of people who have Lost Cattle or horses and suppose them to have been retaken are to be made to the Waggon master General whose Register will supersede the necessity of their being permitted to go in search after them through the different Encampments.

The three persons who have been engaged to remain with the Guards to discriminate Characters and to give Passes are to attend at the Orderly Office tomorrow morning.

One of the retained Guides will continue constantly with the advanced Corps and may be sent with the scouting Parties whenever the Commanding officer thinks proper.

EVENING ORDERS

The Court Martial whereof Colonel Henry Jackson is president will assemble tomorrow morning at 10 o'Clock for the trial of Lieutenant Bliss[15] of the Artillery.

All Evidences and persons concerned are requested to attend.

An Orderly Serjeant from each Division and one from the Artillery to attend the Court.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, near Dobbs's Ferry, August 2, 1781.

Sir: Congress will readily conceive the disagreeable situation in which I find myself, when they are informed, that I am not stronger at this advanced period of the Campaign than when the Army first moved out of their Winter Quarters. Justice to my own feelings and Character requires that I should lay before that Honorable Body, a summary of the measures I have taken to obtain reinforcements, and inform them, likewise, of the little success with which my requisitions have hitherto been attended.

I shall not go back to the date of the Requisition of October last to the several States, which was made in consequence of the new regulation of the Army, and went to the number of Men called for by that arrangement. It will suffice to say, that the Recruits sent in were comparatively small in proportion to the deficiencies, as may be seen from the Returns which I have from time to time transmitted to Congress.

I will begin with the transactions subsequent to the Conference I had with Count de Rochambeau at Wethersfield in May,

[15] Lieut. Joseph Bliss, of the Third Continental Artillery. He was transferred to the Artillery Corps in June, 1783; paymaster of same in January, 1784; served to June, 1784.

when a plan of operations was concerted, and the inclosure No. 1 written to the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island and Connecticut. Letters similar to the foregoing were written, upon my return to New Windsor, to the other States as far as Pennsylvania inclusive, from which last, 1600 Militia were required, but it having been found that that State had been called upon by Congress to send 2400 Militia to Virginia, I withdrew my request, and apportioned the number asked of them to the other States, requiring only a Corps of 300 Rifle Men from Pennsylvania.

Being very desirous of getting my force (especially the Continental Troops) together as soon as possible, or in other words, by the time I could prepare Boats, collect Stores &ca. I wrote the letter No. 2 to the States of New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire, with this variation in respect to Connecticut, that I desired 800 of her Militia might be sent without loss of time to West point, that I might be thereby enabled to withdraw part of the Continenal Garrison from that post for Field service. And as I found that I should be under the absolute necessity of calling down Hazens and the two Continental Battalions of New York, which had been sent up for the security of the Northern Frontier, I, upon the 25th. of June, wrote to His Excellency Govr. Hancock and to the officers commanding the Militia in the Western parts of Massachusetts, and requested that 600 (part of the quota asked for) might be marched without loss of time to Albany, to replace the Continental Troops drawn from that Quarter. Notwithstanding this, by my last letters from Brigr. Genl. Clinton dated at Albany the 20th ulto. not a single Man had come in from Massachusetts, and by a Return from General Mcdougall commanding at West point, only 176 from Connecticut had arrived

at that post yesterday. In short, not a single Militia Man from any State has joined the Army, except the few just mentioned, about 80 Levies of New York and about 200 State Troops of Connecticut, both of which were upon the Lines previous to my leaving our Winter Cantonments.

The inclosure No. 3 exhibits a Return of all the Recruits which have joined the Continental Battalions in this Army since the new arrangement of them. The numbers which have joined in the course of last month are particularly designated.

The General Return for June, which I have lately sent by Capt. Roberts to the Board of War, furnishes a state of the Army up to the 1st of July. To this is to be added the Recruits which have joined since, and a deduction is to be made for the Casualties of July. For the better understanding the General Return, it may not be amiss to remark, that the Light Infantry with the Marquis de la Fayette are included in the Column "upon command," as are the Boatmen, Waggoners, extra Artificers, small detached Guards for various purposes, Waiters and Labourers in the Quarter Master's and Commissary's departments, in the same Column, and that designated on "extra service." all which being deducted from the total, exhibits an Army upon paper, rather than an operating Force. I have in vain endeavoured to remedy this monstrous deduction: But the Civil departments having been totally destitute of Money, have been unable to hire or pay the Men necessary for their uses, and I have therefore been obliged to spare them from the Line to prevent a total stagnation of business.

While I think it my duty faithfully to draw this picture, disagreeable as it is, both for the full information of Congress and my own justification, it becomes incumbent upon me to add, that I shall exert my utmost abilities so to improve the means

with which I may be furnished, that the present Campaign, if not decisive, may be, not inglorious, but in some degree advantageous to America.

I have again written in the most pressing manner to the States as your Excellency will find by the inclosure No. 4 of equal date with this. I flatter myself it will have some avail; but I am at all events happy in thinking, that one of the ends proposed by the plan of operations concerted at Wethersfield will take effect, that of obliging the enemy to recall a considerable force from the Southward to support New York.

It is with pleasure I assure your Excellency that, by great exertions and powerful aids from the States of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, the heavy Artillery, Stores & ca., many of which were also lent by these States, have come on to the North River in a manner beyond my expectation. Those from Pennsylvania are halted at Philadelphia 'till my prospects of obtaining Men are more encouraging. I thought it best to do this, that I might not have to transport them back again, or be encumbered with them here, should we not be able to prosecute offensive operations. I have also the pleasure to inform you, that vigorous exertions are making by the four New England States to furnish a competent supply of Beef Cattle. I have the honor etc.

P. S. I informed your Excellency in my last, that by the account of a Deserter, part of the troops had arrived at New York from Virginia. This is contradicted by others who have come out since, who say that troops are expected from that quarter.[16]

[16] In the writing of Tench Tilghman. This letter was read in Congress on August 6 and referred to Theodorick Bland, Elias Boudinot, and James Mitchell Varnum. The inclosures were copies of Washington's circular letters of May 24, June 15, and August 2, and a return of the number of recruits who had joined the Army from January 1 to June 30 and from July 1 to July 31, inclusive, signed by Adjt. Gen. Edward Hand. These are filed with Washington's letter in the *Papers of the Continental Congress.*

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Head Quarters, Dobbs's Ferry, August 2, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have been honored with yours of the 23d. ulto. I take the earliest opportunity of informing you that our whole dependence for Flour is upon you. The State of New York it is said has a considerable quantity yet within it, but so exhausted are the resources of the Legislature, that they can command none of it. New Jersey has not either passed laws to draw forth the specific supplies demanded of her, or those laws are not executed, but the fact is, that we obtain nothing. I do not exactly know what number of the three thousand Barrels which Mr. Lowrey is to purchase have been delivered. I believe not quite half. He has sent in none lately and the Army is this day without Bread. Expresses are gone to him requesting him to hurry forward the remainder which will not be more than 25 days supply at our present consumption which ought to increase considerably in a very short time; The militia and Levies being daily expected. Thus you see the absolute necessity which there will be of your immediately extending your orders.

I perfectly understood your letter in which you mentioned the good effects which would arise from disposing of Provisions at a distance and purchasing near the Army. I only meant to acquaint you of what I supposed you might be ignorant. That the provision actually provided by the States and deposited in Magizines, was comparatively small. If the States will pay the Balance due from them into your hands, it is evident that there will be a vast saving by expending the Money in the way of Contract.

I am much obliged by your remittance of the draft upon Richards and Company for 2500 dollars specie, which I will

have negotiated as early as possible, and by your undertaking to enable Genl. Schuyler to comply with his Contract for building Boats. I have the honor etc.[17]

To ROBERT MORRIS

(Private)

[Head Quarters, Dobbs's Ferry, August 2, 1781.]

[Dear Sir]: The expectation of the pleasure of seeing you has prevented me hitherto from making a communication of a most important and interesting nature. But circumstances will not admit of further delay, and I must trust it to paper. It seems reduced almost to a certainty, that the enemy will reinforce New York with part of their troops from Virginia. In that case the attempt against the former must be laid aside, as it will not be in our power to draw together a force sufficient to justify the undertaking. The detachment which the enemy will probably leave in Virginia seems the next object which ought to engage our attention, and which will be a very practicable one, should we obtain a naval superiority, of which I am not without hopes, and be able to carry a Body of Men suddenly round by Water. The principal difficulty which occurs, is obtaining transports at the moment they may be wanted: for if they are taken up beforehand, the use for which they are designed cannot be concealed, and the enemy will make arrangements to defeat the plan. What I would therefore wish you to inform yourself of, without making a direct enquiry, is what number of Tons of shipping could be obtained in Phila: at any time between this and the 20th. of this month and whether there could also be obtained at the same time a few deep waisted sloops and schooners proper to carry

[17] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Horses. The number of double decked Vessels which may be wanted, of 200 Tons and upwards, will not exceed thirty. I shall be glad of your answer as soon as possible, because if it is favorable, I can direct certain preparations to be made in Philada. and at other convenient places, without incurring any suspicions. There certainly can be no danger of not obtaining Flour in Philada. and as you seem to have doubts of procuring salt Meat there, I shall direct all that which is to the Eastward to be collected at points, from whence it may be shipped upon the shortest notice.

You will also oblige me by giving me your opinion of the number of Vessels which might be obtained at Baltimore or other places in Chesapeak in the time before mentioned or thereabouts. I have the honor etc.[18]

CIRCULAR TO NEW HAMPSHIRE, MASSACHUSETTS, CONNECTICUT, AND NEW JERSEY

Head Quarters, Dobbs's Ferry, August 2, 1781.

Sir: I regret being obliged to inform you that I find myself at this late period very little stronger than I was when the Army first moved out of their Quarters. Of the Militia which were required of the State of New Hampshire and which were to have joined me by the 15th of last Month, none have come in, and of the Levies for the Continental Battalions only thirteen in the course of the last Month. The reinforcements from the other States have been very inconsiderable.

I leave you to judge of the delicate and embarrassed situation in which I stand at this moment. Unable to advance with prudence beyond my present position, while perhaps in the general opinion my force is equal to the commencement of

[18] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

operations against New York, my conduct must appear, if not blameable, highly mysterious at least. Our Allies, with whom a junction has been formed upwards of three Weeks, and who were made to expect, from the engagements which I entered into with them at Weathersfield in May last, a very considerable augmentation of our force by this time, instead of seeing a prospect of advancing, must conjecture, upon good grounds, that the Campaign will waste fruitlessly away. I shall just remark that it will be no small degree of tryumph to our Enemies, and will have a very pernicious influence upon our friends in Europe, should they find such a failure of resource, or such a want of enegy to draw it out, that our boasted and expensive preparations end only in idle parade.

I cannot yet but persuade myself, and I do not discontinue to encourage our Allies with a hope that our force will still be sufficient to carry our intended operation into effect, or if we cannot fully accomplish that, to oblige the Enemy to withdraw part of their force from the Southward to support New York, and which, as I informed you in my Letter from Weathersfield, was part of our plan.

You must be sensible, Sir, that the fullfilment of my engagements must depend upon the degree of vigor with which the Executives of the several States exercise the powers with which they have been vested, and inforce the Laws lately passed for filling up, and supplying the Army. In full confidence that the means which have been voted will be obtained I shall continue my preparations: But I must take the liberty of informing you that it is essentially necessary I should be made acquainted immediately on the receipt of this, of the number of Continental Levies and Militia which have been forwarded and what are the prospects of obtaining the remainder.

I will further add, that it will be equally necessary to see that the Monthly Quota of Provision stipulated at the Meeting of the Commissioners at Providence is regularly complied with. I am etc.[19] [N.H.H.S.]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry,
Thursday, August 2, 1781.

Parole Calais. Countersigns Rouen, Rheims.

For the day tomorrow
- Brigadier General Glover
- Lieutenant Colonel Newhall[20]
- For Picquet Major B. Porter[21]
- Inspector Captain Warner[22]

The General has reason to believe that it is too common a practice in the line of the Army to withhold cloathing from men serving in detached Corps and in some instances not to pay the least attention to them particularly in the distribution of small supplies. He cannot refrain from expressing his disapprobation of this Line of Conduct and requests commanding officers of regiments in future to attend to their men on detached services that their supplies of cloathing &ca. be equal to those immediately serving with their respective regiments as a contrary line of Conduct in future cannot with propriety pass unnoticed.

[19] In the writing of David Humphreys. The draft, which is in the writing of Tench Tilghman, varies in a minor detail and has the following note:

"Fill up the Blanks as follows.	Militia	Levies
New Hampshire	0	13
Massachusetts	0	294
Connecticut	176	221
New Jersey	0	3"

[20] Lieut. Col. Ezra Newhall.

[21] Maj. Billy Porter.

[22] Capt. Robert Warner, of the First Connecticut Regiment. He was appointed major in May, 1782, and retired in January, 1783.

The Report of the Officer of the day mentions his observing a very wanton and unnecessary destruction of the Cornfields in the vicinity of the Camp. The General considers it extraordinary that notwithstanding the repeated and very pointed orders upon the subject that this circumstance is not more particularly attended to.

If anything of the kind should hereafter be observed the officer of the day is requested to investigate the matter and if it should appear to proceed from the inattention of an officer he is to be immediately reported, and if a soldier confined and with severity punished.

Brigade Waggon masters and Conductors are to be particularly attentive that the Horses and Cattle under their immediate care are not permitted to range at large; as they will be considered answerable for any devastation that they may Commit upon the Property of the Inhabitants.

Brigadier General Hand having reported that from this day's experience he finds it impossible to muster and inspect the Number of regiments directed in the order of the 31st. ultimo, the Division and Brigade Inspectors will be pleased to take the musters of the regiments they are attached to on the days then appointed, or sooner if the rolls are ready leaving the Inspection untill the Assistant Inspector General can attend which he is desired to do as soon as he possibly can. This Delay of Inspection will cause no alteration in the Inspection rolls as articles received or returned since the 31st. of July are not to be comprehended.

To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

Head Quarters, Dobbs Ferry, August 3, 1781.

Sir: I this day receiv'd a Letter from Count Rochambeau, a copy of which is inclos'd, respecting the Militia from the State

of Massachusetts, that were some time since requested for the Rhode Island department; as they have not arrived agreeable to my expectations I have to request your Excellency to forward them with the utmost dispatch, as it is of the greatest importance that that post is properly secur'd. I have the honor etc.[23]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry,
Friday, August 3, 1781.

Parole Weathersfield. Countersigns Danbury, Newtown.

For the Day tomorrow
Brigadier General Patterson
Lieutenant Colonel Badlam
For Picquet Major Spurr
Inspector Captain Converse

Lewis Seely, Matross in the second regiment of Artillery, Benjamin Harley and Robert Barber, Matrosses in the third regiment of Artillery having been confined in the Provost guard at West Point and under sentence of Death since the 28th. of May last the execution of which for some very material reasons has been postponed. The Commander in Chief ever ready and willing to extend Mercy to Offenders when there is room to imagine that his Lenity will not be abused and being convinced from the good Conduct of the Troops that an example is not necessary and the Prisoners being favored with the recommendation of their officers thinks proper to extend his Pardon to Lewis Seely, Benjamin Harley and Robert Barber hoping that this instance of his Lenity will have the effect intended and not only be a check to any future impropriety but induce them to act hereafter as becomes the Character of good Soldiers.

[23] The draft is in the writing of David Cobb.

The Commanding Officer at West Point will order them releas'd and to return to their duty.

To COMTE DE BARRAS

Head Quarters, Dobbs's Ferry, August 3, 1781.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's favr. of the 25th. ulto. The Count de Rochambeau communicated to me the contents of your letter to him of the same date.

It having been proposed through, and strongly urged by, the Minister of France, that the Count de Grasse should come immediately to Sandy Hook, I should conceive, if your Excellency has received no official account to the contrary, that that will be the first point at which he will touch. In consequence of this opinion I have lodged dispatches for him with General Forman of the Militia of Monmouth on the Coast of New Jersey not far from Sandy Hook, a Gentleman in whom the utmost confidence may be placed. In these I have given the Count information of our position, strength and prospects, as also of the probable force and divided situation of the enemy; and did not fail to express my fervent Wishes that his early arrival might keep them so, or intercept them in endeavouring to form a junction. The important consequences which would result from either of these events taking place are too obvious to need illustration. I have also, from a full persuasion that Count de Grasse will first make his appearance off Sandy Hook, written to Captain Dobbs[24] one of our most experienced pilots, and have desired him to repair with as many more as

[24] On this same day (August 3) Washington wrote to Capt. William Dobbs "The want of money need be no Obstacle to your proceeding upon the Service required, as you will receive a supply for that purpose upon your arrival here." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

he can obtain to a secure place contiguous to the Hook, that they may be ready to go on board the Fleet the moment they are assured it is that of our Ally. Should my expectations be answered, I shall make no delay in communicating the agreeable intelligence to your Excellency.

The information received a few days ago by a Deserter, that Troops had arrived at New York from Virginia was premature. Subsequent accounts not only contradict it, but add, that they are not expected before the 15th. of this Month. In the interval, the Harbour of New York remains in a manner open and defenceless. Fortunate beyond expression would it be, could advantage be taken of the opportunity to possess it. I have the honor etc.[25]

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, Dobbs Ferry, August 3, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's Favor of the 31st ulto. I most ardently wish that your Orders for reinforcing and supplying the Army, may be carried into Execution with a Zeal and Ardor equal to that which, I am persuaded, they are given.

Money for the Pay of the Troops of your Line will be exceedingly welcome, the sooner it arrives the more salutary will be its Consequences.

It will be very difficult for the Q M G unfurnished as he is with Money, or the Means of Transportation, to get on the Cloathing which you are so good as to mention; if the States could find Means to hand it on to us, it would prove a very agreeable Circumstance.

[25] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Your Excellency, I fancy, must be better able to judge of the Security of some Place for yourself and Council to sitt at in the Western Part of your State than I am; I imagine however that you may be quite secure at Danbury, unless you fear the Designs of your own internal disaffected people; from the Enemy at N York or on Long Island, there can be, I think, little or no Danger; against the disaffected in the Vicinity of Danbury, a small guard will give you Protection. On your coming this Way, I flatter myself you will be so good as to do me the Honor of a Visit at Camp; be assured Sir! I shall esteem myself peculiarly happy in such an Event and I will make it my Care to render your Stay with me as agreeable as Circumstances will permitt. I have the Honor etc.[26]

TO THE OFFICER COMMANDING THE MILITIA RAISING BY LATE REQUISITION IN BERKSHIRE COUNTY[27]

Head Quarters, Dobbs Ferry, August 4, 1781.

Sir: On the 25th of June last I wrote to Genl Fellows whom I supposed then to command the Militia of the County of Berkshire, to desire that he would order the Militia of that County then Raising by Requisition, to march to Albany as fast as they were collected, requestg him to communicate My Desire to the other Western Counties, so far as was necessary to make up the Number of 600 Men. This Desire was the same Day communicated to Govr Hancock, intimating to him the Reasons and Necessity of this Anticipation of his Orders; and desiring him to Back my Request; since which I have several times reiterated my requisition to the Govr on this Head. But am still informed at this late Period that your Militia are not gone on

[26] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

[27] Massachusetts.

to the Point expected, and indeed am made to understand that you are at a Loss where to march.

This therefore Requests you in the most earnest Manner to march with all the Militia of your County which are collected, immediately to Albany, where you will receive further Orders; the Necessity of your Arrival on that Ground in Order to relieve a Body of Continental Troops which are expected to assist in my intended Operations, induces me to make this Request and hope that you will not hesitate to make a ready Compliance.

If it should be thought proper I wish that this Request may be communicated to the other Counties in such Manner and Extent that I may be assured of the Number of 600 Men to march to Albany with you, agreable to my first Requisition. I am &c.[28]

To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL

Head Quarters, August 4, 1781.

Sir: I am directed by the Commandr in Chief to acquaint you, that information has been conveyed to Head Quarters that a certain person is employed by the Enemy to come out in the Guize of a Spy to make his Observations on the Works at West Point and to obtain Knowledge of our strength and situation at that post. The Person is discribed to have a Mould under one of his Eyes and a Scar on one Temple, and will appear in the Garb of a common Country man.

How far this Information is to be depended upon, the General is not assured; but thinks it may be improved to induce you to particular Caution and Watchfulness against such Imposition. I am etc.[29]

[28] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[29] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "J]onathan[T[rumbull, Jr.]"

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobb's Ferry,
Saturday, August 4, 1781.

Parole Picardy. Countersigns Chantilly, Rochelle.

For the day tomorrow
- Brigadier General Huntington
- Lieutenant Colonel Johnston
- For Picquet Major Maxwell[30]
- Inspector Captain Remick

The Waggon Master General is to make an immediate Return of all Horses and Oxen employed in his Department including the riding horses.

The Quarter Masters of Brigades and seperate Corps are to make Returns of all Horses therein and of the names (and ranks if officers) of the persons by whom they are kept excepting those belonging to the Waggon Department.

These Returns are to be made to the Quarter Master General on Monday next. In every case the Public and Private Property are to be distinguished as well as the riding from the draught horses. By that day the Quarter Master General will ascertain the Numbers of Horses kept by all General and Staff officers not attached to Brigades or seperate Corps. Every Horse kept by any person belonging to or following the American Army not included in these returns which shall after the time abovementioned be found within the Limits of the Camp or between the Camp and Croton river is to be delivered to the Waggon Master General and employed for the public Service.

No draught or waggon horse is not to be rode on any pretence whatever unless when sent after Forage or to water; any

[30] Maj. Hugh Maxwell, of the Second Massachusetts Regiment. He was appointed lieutenant colonel of the Eighth Massachusetts Regiment in August, 1782; transferred to the Third Massachusetts Regiment in June, 1783; served to November, 1783.

person found riding such horse on any other occasion will be tried by a court martial and punished for disobedience of orders.

Untill further Orders General DuPortail's Guard to be furnished from the Corps of Sappers and Miners.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry,
Sunday, August 5, 1781.

Parole Philadelphia. Countersigns Derby, Chester.

For the day Tomorrow
Major General Heath
Lieutenant Colonel Fernald
For Picquet Major Oliver
Inspector Captain Drew.[31]

No Person excepting those belonging to the Army is to come into Camp from the country above or northward of the Camp but by the following roads vizt.

No. 1 The road by Storm's bridge along the Saw mill river.

" 2 The road from Young's to the road leading from Dobbs ferry to the White Plains.

3 The road directly from the White Plains to Camp crossing the river at the Bridge under Chattiton's hill.

The following persons will be appointed to be constantly at the respective stations hereafter mentioned whose business it shall be to examine the persons passing and if they find them to be of suspicious or dangerous characters they are to be detained 'till reported to the General of day and further enquiry had. People who are innocently bringing refreshments to camp to be encouraged.

[31] Capt. Seth Drew, of the Second Massachusetts Regiment. He was appointed major of the Third Massachusetts Regiment in January, 1783, and served to June, 1783.

Mr. Isaac Requa will be stationed at Storm's bridge on the road No. 1.

Mr. Joseph Paulding will be stationed on the road No. 2 to Young's, at the first intersection of it by the road from Tarrytown.

Mr. Eden Hunt will be stationed at the Bridge above mentioned on Brunks river near Chattiton's hill road No. 3.

A Commissioned Officer will be posted at each of the foregoing places who will give the following short ticket to such persons as he permits to pass into Camp:

Storm's bridge 1781.
No. 1.
The Bearer is
A B.

Any person found in Camp not belonging to the army without such a ticket is to be taken up as a Spy and conducted to the General of the day.

A Corporal and six men to be at each of the above stations to assist the Gentlemen above mentioned in the execution of their duty.

Three Copies of each of the above mentioned Gentlemen's Tickets should be given to the General and Field Officers of the day that they may not be deceived by Counterfeits those to be handed over to the succeeding officers of the day.

Brigadier General Waterbury will adopt the same line of Conduct on the road leading from the Country to his incampment.

The Rear Guard on the North River road will suffer no persons except such as belong or are attached to the Army to enter the Camp by that route.

Ensign D. Fonda[32] of the first New York regiment is appointed Adjutant to the light Corps commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Hamilton.

[32] Ensign Douw J. Fondey (Fonda). He served to June, 1783.

Two Hundred men to be draughted from the Line to assist Colonel Lutterloh a few days in collecting Forage, they will receive orders at his Quarters tomorrow morning eight o'clock.

The General Court Martial of which Colonel Putnam is President will assemble tomorrow morning at ten o'clock.

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, Dobbs's Ferry, August 5, 1781.

Gentn: I have been honored with your favors of the 17th. and 26th. ulto; the first inclosing three plans for filling the present Vacancies and making future promotions in the Medical Line and which you were pleased to submit to my opinion. That I might obtain as extensive a knowledge as possible of the sentiments of the Army upon this matter, I committed the plans to the General Officers and desired them to report their opinions thereon to me. This, after consulting the Director and Physician General, they have done. Inclosed you will find a Copy of their Report,[33] which is principally founded upon the plan No. 1 and which corresponds with my Ideas.[34]

I must again thank you Gentlemen for your attention to the affairs of my Household. Mr. Morris has furnished me with a draft upon New London for 2500 dollars specie. I have the honor etc.[35]

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Head Quarters, Dobbs's Ferry, August 5, 1781.

Dear Sir: There are 311 barrels of Salt Beef at Portsmouth in New Hampshire, which to save land Carriage, I had directed

[33] This opinion of the Board of General Officers, dated Aug. 2, 1781, is in the *Washington Papers*.

[34] See Washington's letter to Brig. Gen. William Heath, Aug. 1, 1781, *ante*.

[35] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

to be sent to Providence by Water, but Mr. president Weare writes me that the risque is too great, as there are a number of privateers in that quarter. I have therefore informed him that you will dispose of it on the spot and procure a like quantity in Philada: I shall be obliged to you for investing the Money which may arise from this sale in pork rather than in Beef. I have the honor etc.[36]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES CLINTON

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry, August 5, 1781.

Dear Sir: I am favored with your Letter of the 30th Ulto. also with one from His Excellency Governor Clinton of the 1st. Inst representing the exposed situation of the frontier of this State. I have in consequence, thought it adviseable, that the remaining part of Cortlands Regt. (except the Light Company) should continue at Albany untill further Orders. I have also prevailed on Major General Lincoln to set out tomorrow Morning for Berkshire and Hampshire Counties to urge on the Levies with all possible expedition: from General Lincoln's high reputation among those People, and indefatigable industry and zeal in the public service, I cannot but flatter myself this measure will be attended with success. I am &c.[37]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID FORMAN

Head Quarters, Dobbs's ferry, August 5, 1781.

Dear Sir: I last night received yours of the 3d. Inst. Graves's Fleet was certainly off Block Island a few days ago. It is supposed they have taken that Station to cover the Quebec ships

[36] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[37] In the writing of David Humphreys. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

as they pass along, and at the same time give those which may be expected from Virginia an opportunity of making their voyage safely.

I am not acquainted with the private Signals of Mr. de Grasse, but I think it may soon be discovered upon the appearance of a Fleet whether they are Friends or Foes. If the latter they will immediately send in a light ship, or one will come out to them.

One of the Expresses informs me that their Route from Brunswic is through Woodbridge, Elizabeth Town, Newark, second River and Hackensack which is certainly the most exposed that can possibly be. It will soon be known by the Enemy that we have Expresses upon that communication, and if they are continued upon it, they will undoubtedly intercept some of them. I would recommend it to you immediately to change the Route to the following: from Brunswic through Westfield, Springfield, Wesel or Slotterdam, Paramus and from thence to Dobbs's Ferry. This I believe is rather nearer and is so far up the Country that the Enemy's small parties scarce ever venture so high. I am etc.[38]

To COLONEL ALEXANDER SCAMMELL

Head Quarters, August 5, 1781.

Dear Sir: His Excellency wants to make a reconnoitre upon the North River Road tomorrow: For which purpose, he desires you will move down about five oClock in the morning with all your foot and Colo. Sheldons Horse and Foot, and possess the Roads leading into the North River Road. You will advance parties as far below Phillips's as you can with safety. You will request Colo. Sheldon to leave an officer and 20

[38] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

dragoons at Dobbs's ferry as an Escort for the General, who will be there about 7 OClock. I am &c.

[P. S.] You need not go down if it should rain. The party will come up again in the afternoon, therefore taking provision with them is immaterial.[39]

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, Dobbs Ferry, August 5, 1781.

Dear Sir: In order to answer the Questions stated in your Memorandum[40] to me respecting Tents, His Excellency thinks it necessary, that it should be ascertained, whether there are now a sufficient number of Tents in the several State Lines (including the Tents with their detachments) to cover the Troops of those Lines, if they should be collected and augmented nearly to the Establishment? If this should be the case, and *515 Tents* still remaining on hand, the General is of opinion, you may postpone having the heavy Duck Made into Tents, for the present, on account of the Reasons you Mention, especially at this advanced stage of the Campaign, when they could scarcely be compleated and forwarded in season. But if five hundred Tents cannot be insured to us, under the circumstances above specifyed, it is His Excellency's request, that you will have the stock of Tents (exclusive of those appropriated to the State Lines) increased to that number, and forwarded to the Army as expeditiously as possible.

The General would have no more Boats kept down the River (below Kings Ferry) than are absolutely necessary to perform the public Service. I am &c.[41]

[39] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "T. Tilghman A. D. C."

[40] Pickering's memorandum is filed with Washington's letter in the *Washington Papers*.

[41] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D. Humphreys, Aide De Camp."

To PRESIDENT MESHECH WEARE

Head Quarters, Dobb's Ferry, August 5, 1781.

Sir: I have been honored by your Favor of the 23d ulto. Upon your Representation of the Danger of Water Transportation, I have written to Mr. Morris the Financier Genl., and desired him to dispose of the 311 Barrels of salted Beef lying in Portsmouth, and to vest the Amount of Sales in the like kind of Provisions in Philadelphia, which I trust may be done to Advantage of the Public. The 40 Barrels, or whatever Quantity may be in the Western parts of the State, may remain to be forwarded to Albany for the Use of the Troops in that Quarter, if it shall be thot best.

We begin to feel the happy Effect of the Exertions of the States in the Supply of Fresh Beef, and hope this may prove an Earnest of their punctual Continuance of this most necessary Support.

No Rum from your State, has at this Time reached us, and but very little from any other State; there is not now in Camp, I believe, so much as One Cask. This Article is so necessary for the Health as well as comfort of the Soldiery at this Season, that I wish it might be particularly attended to, especially as at this Moment, I fancy, it is uncommonly plenty in almost every State.

I am sensible of and sincerely lament our Embarrassments arising from the State of our paper Currency. I hope we are beginning to emerge from this Difficulty, and were we to divest ourselves as much as possible of all paper, we should perhaps find the Hard Money in much greater plenty than is at present imagined. I have the Honor etc.[42] [N.H.H.S.]

[42] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To JOSEPH WOODBRIDGE[43]

Head Quarters, Dobbs's ferry, August 5, 1781.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 24th. of last Month[44] and am obliged by the offer which you have made of the Cannon saved out of the Wreck of the Culloden. Such Guns would be valuable to the Continent, but you must know our difficulties in regard to making payment. If you will however let me know your lowest price and longest Credit, I will endeavour to make a Contract with you on terms which will be certainly complied with and in a manner that will not make you liable to loss by depreciation. I am etc.[45]

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, Dobb's Ferry, August 5, 1781.

Sir: Your Favor of the 1st instt inclosing the Letter of Genl Schuyler and others, is this Moment come to Hand.

It is not a little distressing to find that the States will not or cannot fill their Continental Battalions or afford the Aids of Militia required from them; but that instead thereof they are expecting from me the few Operating Troops which I have to depend on; the Consequences of this Conduct is too obvious to need any Comment; instead of offensive Measures, a defensive Plan must be adopted; instead of an active and decisive Campaign, which I hoped to have made, we must end our Operations in Langour and disgrace, and perhaps protract the War to the Hazzard of our final Ruin.

[43] Of Groton, Conn.

[44] Woodbridge's letter of July 24, in the *Washington Papers,* offered to furnish 16 of the H. M. S. *Collodon's* upper tier guns, which were 32 pounders.

[45] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

In Consequence of your Excellency's former Letter, I dispatched an Express to Govr Hancock, with a reiterated Request that he would Order on the Militia of Berkshire and the other Western Counties, immediately to Albany, and have also addressed the Commandg Officer of the Militia in those Counties Requestg him to march forward to the Orders of Genl Clinton; what Effect these Requisitions may have, it is impossible for me to say. In the Mean Time I will leave the Remains of Courtlandts Regt. at Albany, trusting that the State will by its own Exertions, enable me to call them down when necessary, by substituting 9 Months Men, if those for three Years cannot be obtained.

In hopes that no farther Delay of the Militia from the Western Part of Massa. may happen for Want of any Exertions on my Part, I have desired Genl Lincoln, an Officer of that State to proceed to the County of Berkshire, for the Express Purpose of hastening them forward; how little Effect my written Applications have had, I hope his personal Attendance will produce the Aid we expect from those Counties. I have the Honor etc.[46]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry,
Monday, August 6, 1781.

Parole Marseilles. Countersigns Toulon, Nantz.

For the Day Tomorrow
Major General Lord Stirling
Lieutenant Colonel Hull
For Picquet Major Woodbridge[47]
Inspector Captain Smith.[48]

[46] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[47] Maj. Theodore Woodbridge, of the Second Connecticut Regiment. He was brigade major and inspector from June, 1779, to July, 1781, and retired in January, 1783.

[48] Capt. John Kilby(?) Smith, of the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment.

INSTRUCTIONS TO MAJOR GENERAL BENJAMIN LINCOLN

Head Quarters at Dobbs's Ferry, August 6, 1781.

Sir: On perceiving that I should be under the necessity of drawing down the Continental Troops from the Frontier of the State of New York, I wrote upon the 25th. June to General Fellows desiring that 600 Militia (part of the Quota required from the state of Massachusetts) might be marched from the Counties of Hampshire and Berkshire and those contiguous thereto to Albany and take their orders from the Officer commanding in that district. I wrote at the same time to His Excellency Govr. Hancock informing of the steps I had taken, assuring him that I had taken this liberty without consulting him, merely to save time. I, in due time, received an answer from Genl. Fellows acquainting me that he was out of Office, and informing me that no orders had been then received to embody the Militia, tho' my requisitions to the State had been as early as the 24th. of May from Weathersfield. Colo. Willet who is now upon the Frontier being very anxious to know in what forwardness the Militia from the Western Counties of Massachusetts were and when they might be expected sent an Express to Genl. Fellows to make the enquiry. He received for answer on the 23d. of July that the Men from the County of Berkshire were raising with spirit, but that no order had yet been sent by the Governor to direct the place to which they were to march, altho' I so long ago as the 15th. June in a circular letter to the Governors of the different States desired that all the Militia required of them might join the Army by the 15th. of July. Having never had the honor of an answer to the several letters which I have written to Governor Hancock since the 24th. of May I cannot undertake to say whether the

necessary orders have been given in consequence of them. I am therefore under the necessity of requesting you to repair to the Counties of Hampshire and Berkshire and those most contiguous to them and if you should find upon your arrival that the 600 Militia before mentioned have not marched to Albany to take measures for putting them in motion as expeditiously as possible.

P. S. You will endeavour to inform yourself in what forwardness the Militia from the other Counties within your reach are; and if you find occasion for it, you will use any means which you may think most proper to hasten their movements to the Army.[49]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry,
Tuesday, August 7, 1781.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

For the Day Tomorrow
- Major General Lincoln
- Colonel Greaton
- For Picquet Major Smith[50]
- Inspector Captain Robinson[51]

The officers commanding Wings will direct the slaughtering places of the several Brigades to be removed as far as they possibly can be consistent with the convenience and safety from the Line of Encampment.

The Vaults are to be regularly covered every day and all bones and putrid meat burned or buried, in short nothing

[49] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[50] Maj. David Smith, of the Fifth Connecticut Regiment. He was brigade major and brigade inspector from May, 1779, to July, 1781; transferred to the Second Connecticut Regiment in January, 1783; served to June, 1783.

[51] Capt. Caleb Robinson, of the Second New Hampshire Regiment. He was made brigade inspector in July, 1781; major in October, 1781; retired in March, 1782.

which can contribute to the wholesomeness of the Camp ought to be neglected at this Season.

It is expected that the officers of Police will particularly attend to the execution of these orders.

*To GOVERNOR THOMAS NELSON

Camp near Dobbs' ferry, August 7, 1781.

My dear Sir: Among your numerous friends, none will be found whose congratulations on your appointment to the Administration of the Affairs of Virginia, are offered with more cordiality and sincerity than mine.

It is long since I had the pleasure of writing to, or receiving a letter from you, but as I am conscious that the silence on my part is not a consequence of diminished friendship, I am equally ready to acquit you of a change in yours.

The prest. crisis is important, and valuable uses might be made of it, but the hours are fleeting away much faster than we improve them; in proof of this I have only to add that not one half of the Men that was called for to compose this Army, and which ought by the requisitions of Congress to have joined it by the first of Jany. are yet arrived; nor do I know when they will. After bringing you acquainted with this serious and important fact, I need not detail smaller matters of disappointment and difficulty to shew the irksomeness of my present situation. I have the consolation however to think that, the measures adopted for the operations of the Campaign will effect one part of my plan, namely, the withdraw of part of the enemy's force from the Southwd. and consequently enable those States to manage the remainder with more ease and less expense.

As all new appointments of Officers in the several State lines is vested in the Executive of each, I take the liberty of recom-

mending William Fitzhugh Esqr. third Son of Colo. Fitzhugh of Maryland, for a Commission in Baylor's Dragoons. I have not the pleasure of his acquaintance, but am told that he is a promising young Gentleman, well educated, and about 20 Years of age. Such characters are an acquisition to any Corps; and his father, equally with himself, is desirous of his entering the above where he has a Brother already commissioned; but who, at present, is serving in my family as an extra aid de Camp.[52] I beg the favour of you to present my respectful Compliments to your lady, and that you would be assured, that with sentimts. of purest esteem and regard etc.

*To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

August 7, 1781.

Sir: I have the honor to inclose (under a flying Seal for your perusal) a letter to Governour Greene, wch. I hope will produce the effect your Excellency desires as it is my wish to give perfect security to the Fleet at New port in the present critical moment. With sentiments of Attachmt. etc.

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM GREENE

Head Quarters, Dobbs's Ferry, August 7, 1781.

Sir: His Excellency Count de Rochambeau informs me that he has received letters from Brigr. General de Choissy acquainting him that the tour of duty of that Class of your Militia which was sent upon the Island has either expired or is very near expiring, and that he understands no others are to be furnished to replace them. I cannot but think that Mr. de Choissy has been misinformed as to the latter circumstance,

[52] Lieut. Col. Peregrine Fitzhugh.

but lest such an Idea may have been entertained, I beg leave to represent to your Excellency the dangerous consequences which might ensue from an adherence to it.

The very valuable Fleet of our Allies has been left by them in an exposed situation upon a promise made on our part that we would keep up one thousand Militia at least to act in conjunction with the French Forces under the command of Mr. de Choissy. One half of this number I allotted to you and the other to Massachusetts, and I imagined your quota would have been readily and cheerfully furnished, as they were,[53] in consequence of their being employed at home, relieved from the Expence, fatigue and other inconveniences of marching to join this Army.

It is reported in New York, perhaps not without foundation, that Rodneys fleet may be expected upon this Coast. In such case we may suppose that the Count de Grasse would follow him: But can we say which would arrive first. If it should be Rodney, and he should learn that Count de Barras is not covered by a force upon land, would he not probably make use of his superiority to demolish him. The consequences of such a stroke your Excellency can better conceive than I can describe.

In addition to the above I would further inform you that the Enemy are about recalling part of their troops from Virginia. Their general intention is, I make little doubt, to reinforce New York; but they might be used to improve the opportunity of striking at the Fleet in the Harbour of New port, should we give them an opening.

I am convinced I need bring no further arguments to convince your Excellency that we are bound by Interest and Honor to keep up the stipulated number of Men, more espe-

[53]At this point the draft has the following, which did not appear in the letter sent: "to act in defence of their own state, and as they were."

cially at this critical moment, and I have a full dependance that you will not only take measures to relieve the first Class by an equal number, but that you will hold the remainder ready should circumstances render them necessary. I have lately written to Govr. Hancock upon the subject of keeping up the Massachusetts quota. I have the honor etc.[54]

To MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR ST. CLAIR

Head Quarters, Dobbs Ferry, August 7, 1781.

Sir: I have received your Favor of the 20th ulto. and am very sorry to observe the unfavorable Prospect you give me of the Recruiting the Pensylvania Line; That I may have a decided Knowledge from time to time of the Success of this Business, you will be pleased to give me by every Post a Weekly Acco. of the Numbers recruited in every Week; and that it may be done with Clearness and Precision, you will be very pointed in your Orders to the several Parties in the different parts of the State, that they be very punctual in giving you the fullest and most perfect Returns of their Proceedings every Week.

Colo Nickola, with the Invalid Corps, is arrived at West Point; the Charges against him, inclosed in your last, are received; upon which he will have an Opportunity to make his Defence.

The Movement of Ld Cornwallis, with the Troops under his Command, will probably be soon decided; on the Circumstances of this Event, will hang many of our future Operations, of which, so far as they may relate to your Command, you will be duly noticed. I am &c.[55]

[54] In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From the original in the Ely Collection, Providence, R. I.

[55] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Dobbs Ferry, August 8, 1781.

Sir: I do myself the honor to inform Congress, thro' your Excellency, that at a late meeting between the American and British Commissaries of prisoners, it has been propos'd by the latter to go into a full exchange of Lt. Genl. Burgoyne and all the remaining Officers of Convention (by composition where Ranks will not apply) for the remainder of our Officers in this Quarter, and after them for those taken to the Southward; one of the terms insisted upon, is that the Prisoners surrender'd by the Capitulation of the Cedars to the amount of 443, shall be allowed.

I have not thought myself at Liberty to accede to these proposals without the concurrence of Congress, for the following reasons: That I imagine our Minister at the Court of Versailles has been already directed to propose the exchange of Lt. Genl. Burgoyne for the Honble. Mr. Laurens.[56] That I do not know whether it wou'd be agreeable to Congress to release the whole of the Convention Officers, before they have obtain'd a settlement for the subsistence of those Troops, and lastly, because the refusal of the ratification of the Convention of the Cedars, has never been repeal'd. I wou'd beg leave to remark on the two last: that the exchange of our full Colonels can never be obtain'd but by Composition, and that it is better to effect this by a composition for inferior Officers than for Men, because the enemy gain no reinforcement by such mode. To release the full Colonels in this quarter only, and who all but one have been prisoners since 1777, it wou'd take 700 privates. Should the

[56] See Albert Henry Smyth's *Writings of Benjamin Franklin*, vol. 8, pp. 317–320, and John Bigelow's *Franklin's Works*, vol. 7, p. 303.

security for the Convention debt still be urged, I wou'd answer that we may perhaps deceive ourselves in supposing that the Ballance upon a general settlement for the subsistance of all prisoners since the commencement of the War will be much in our favour. I am inclin'd to think we shall find it the contrary and owing to this; The British have constantly kept their accounts with accuracy, and have Vouchers ready to support them. We on the other hand, shall be found very deficient on that score, indeed I fear almost totally so, except in the instance of the Convention Troops, and prisoners of War latterly.

Congress will judge of the expediency of repealing their Act, respecting the Convention of the Cedars, upon the present occasion.

Mr. Skinner the Commissary Genl. of prisoners will have the honor of delivering this to your Excellency. I shall be obliged by an answer to several points contain'd in it, at his return, that I may instruct him accordingly. I have the honor etc.[57]

To CAPTAIN ALEXANDER MITCHELL[58]

Head Quarters, Dobbs's Ferry, August 8, 1781.

Sir: I was surprised at finding by yours of the 1st. Inst. that you were distressed for want of provision of any kind, as the State of Pennsylvania had engaged to furnish you liberally. I shall immediately write to Mr. Morris the Superintendant of Finance who has undertaken to procure all the supplies required of Pennsylvania and acquaint him with your situation, when I make no doubt but he will take steps to relieve you as

[57] In the writing of David Cobb. The letter was read in Congress on August 17 and referred to Elias Boudinot, James Mitchell Varnum, and Roger Sherman.

[58] Of the First New Jersey Regiment.

soon as it is in his power. You must in the mean time obtain from the inhabitants, in the way least distressing to them, the means of support for your troops. The distance from hence is so great[59] that it is scarcely possible to forward supplies so soon as they may be ordered from Philada: I am &c.[60]

To COLONEL CHARLES STEWART

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry, August 8, 1781.

Sir: His Excellency the Commander in Chief desires you will take immediate and effectual measures, to ascertain with certainty the quantity of salted Provisions now lying on or near Connecticut River, specifying by actual Returns the kind and quality of it, and the Places where it is deposited; also the quantity now in the Magazine at Providence; and whether the salted Provision has been transported from Springfield to Hartford, in consequence of directions from you, and if it has not been removed to the last mentioned Place, His Excellency requests you will urge that it should be done without delay. I am &c.[61]

To ABRAHAM SKINNER

Head Quarters, Dobbs's ferry, August 8, 1781.

Sir: I have recd. your favor of the 6th. inclosing Copies of the late letters which have passed between you and Mr. Loring and his proposition for the exchange of Lieut. Genl. Burgoyne and all the remaining Officers of Convention, provided we will allow the Cedars prisoners to be brought into the Account.

I cannot give my assent to this before I have consulted Congress upon the matter, for the following Reasons: They have,

[59] Mitchell was stationed at Wyoming.
[60] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[61] The draft is in the writing of and the letter sent is signed by David Humphreys.

I believe, already directed our Minister at the Court of Versailles to make an offer of exchanging Lt. Genl. Burgoyne for the Honble. Mr. Henry Laurens. I do not know whether they would choose to release the whole of the Convention Officers previous to the settlement of the account for the subsistence of those troops as their detention is looked upon as a security in some degree. And as to the affair of the prisoners of the Cedars, you know upon what footing that stands. However, that I may give all possible dispatch to the Business in one way or the other, I have written to Congress on these several matters. You have the letter inclosed and you will be the Bearer of it yourself.

Should the exchange of Convention Officers become so general as to include part of the southern Officers, due attention must be paid to exchanging them according to the course of their capture. I mention this, particularly, because I observe in the list proposed by Mr. Loring that Lieutenant Colonels Neville, Ball, Du Buysson, and Ternant are included. If they are entitled to the preference, there can be no objection; but if they are not, you must substitute those who have the right.

That the enemy may have no reason to complain that we throw obstacles in the way of the release of our privates, you have liberty to order those Men of Delanceys to some convenient place, and inform Mr. Loring that they will be ready to be delivered at the Barrier whenever our prisoners are brought to the place which shall be agreed upon. You are to insist upon the release of Inhabitants taken out of Arms without any compensation. You may inform Mr. Loring that I would not wish to be obliged to seize private persons to obtain the relief of those who are now in New York. I have it at this time in my power to secure every Loyalist in the Western part of Connecticut, in the County of West Chester and in great part of Bergen,

but I have not encouraged a practice which I have reprobated in the enemy, and which nothing shall induce me to put in execution, but seeing no other mode of procuring the release of our Citizens. I am &c.[62]

*To COLONEL WILLIAM FITZHUGH

Camp near Dobbs' ferry, August 8, 1781.

Dear Sir: I stand indebted to you for two letters, dated the 26th. of Aprl. and 29th. of May; the reason why I did not immediately answer so much of much of the first as related to your Son William,[63] was the hourly expectation I was in of seeing his Brother the Captain,[64] from whom I expected to know what Corps would be prefered. Not doing this till the middle of June, my answer was protracted till I was informed that he had changed his views, and was about to enter the suite of General Smallwood. This rendering an answer to that part of the letter in some degree unnecessary, the moving state of the Army, and the junction which was formed with the Auxiliary Troops immediately after, has been the occasion of my silence till I was informed by the Captain that his Brother had revived his first intention of getting an appointment in the Cavalry which has induced me to write to both Govr. Nelson and Genl. Greene, recommending him to a Commission in Baylors Cavalry. I have no doubt of his succeeding if there is a vacancy in the Regiment.

There is scarce a stage of the Campaign, or an occurrence that happens in it, that does not exhibit some proof of the fatal policy of short enlistments, and of the immense expence we are involved in by them. The enemy never fail to take

[62] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[63] William Frisbie Fitzhugh.
[64] Peregrine Fitzhugh.

advantage in some quarter or another, of the weak state of our Army, whilst we, if an opening presents itself, have men to raise (by enormous bounties) before advantage can be taken of it, which occasions such a lapse of time that the favourable moment is passed, and the enemy is prepared for us by a transport of their Troops.

The force called for and which I ought to have had by the first of Jany. is not yet arrived, nor do I know when to expect it. the Season is rapidly advancing, and the enemy, if reports and appearances do not deceive us, is in hourly expectation of a reinforcement from Virginia at New York; thus it is we are always labouring, always accumulating expence, and always disappointed of our object.

It is much to be feared that the Campaign will waste away as the last did in a fruitless attempt to get men; who are procured in such a manner, and for such short periods, that the first who came into the field are about leaving it, as the last arrives by which means an enormous expence is incurred, and no benefit derived; as we never have a sufficient force at any period to answer our purposes.

I am clearly in Sentiment with you, that all emissions of Paper money ought to be subject to a supreme direction to give it a proper stamina, and universal credit; and that good and sure funds should be appropriated for the redemption of it; but in this, as in most other matters, the States individually have acted so independantly of each other as to become a mere rope of sand, and to totter upon the brink of ruin at a time when the independancy of them, if the resources which have been drawn forth, had been applied to great objects by one common head, would have been as unshaken as Mount Atlas, and as regardless of the efforts of Great Britain to destroy it, as she is of the unheeded tempests that pass over her.

It was with much concern [I heard of your second loss by the][65] Pirates of the Bay, and of the Insults Mrs. Fitzhugh and yourself had received from them. My Compliments attend her, and with very great esteem and regard I am etc. [N.Y.H.S.]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry,
Wednesday, August 8, 1781.

MORNING ORDERS

Major General Howe to be officer of the day vice Major General Lincoln absent.

Parole Languedoc. Countersigns Alsace, Amiens.

For the Day tomorrow { Major General Parsons / Colonel Swift / For Picquet Major Trescot / Inspector Captain Warner

At a General Court Martial of the Line held at Camp near Dobbs ferry July 28th. whereof Colonel Henry Jackson is President.

Captain Livermore[66] of the first New Hampshire regiment appeared before the Court charged as follows vizt.

First: Threatning and insulting Major Murnan of the Corps of Engineers; his superior officer, in a most outrageous manner when in the execution of his duty.

Second: Striking him with his own Espontoon and after having broken that with striking him with that of another officer whereby he received a wound and was otherwise injured.

[65] Mutilated. The words in brackets have been supplied from the draft, which, also, is in the writing of Washington.

[66] Capt. David Livermore. He was dismissed in August, 1781; was reinstated the same month; retired in March, 1782.

The Court having maturely considered the first charge against Captain Livermore, the Testimony and his defence are of opinion that it is fully supported in the instance of Captain Livermore without provocation in the presence of several officers and soldiers having threatened Major Murnan being his superior officer and in service at the same Post with him as an Engineer, with kicking him in case he should again Kick any of the soldiers being a breach of part Article 5th. Section 18th. of the Rules and Articles of War.

The Court with respect to the second Charge are of opinion that the facts stated in it did take place but as it appears from the general face of the Testimony that Major Murnan recommenced the dispute in the instances to which those facts refer and did the first act of hostility they acquit Captain Livermore of any criminality in these Cases.

The Court for the Charge they have found Captain Livermore guilty of do sentence him to be dismissed from the service.

The Commander in Chief approves the foregoing Sentence and thinks it necessary to declare to prevent disputes in future that the officers of the Corps of Engineers not only according to Military rule in other services but by a Resolve of Congress of the 11th. of March 1779 and a General Order of the 6th. of June last shall take Rank and enjoy the same Rights Honors and priveleges with those of other troops on Continental Establishment. Hence it follows that if an Officer of Engineers detached to construct a work or upon other duty should be elder than the officer commanding the working or covering party he may command him in all Cases whatever; should he on the contrary be younger he can only point out to the officer commanding the Party what ought to be done; and if he refuses to execute it he may report him to the Commander in

Chief or commanding officer of the detachment with which they are serving.

The above Principles apply to all officers whether of Infantry, Artillery, Engineers or Cavalry when serving together.

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Head Quarters, Dobbs's Ferry, August 9, 1781.

Dear Sir: Inclosed is the Copy of a letter which I have just recd. from Capt. Mitchell commanding the post at Wyoming, representing his distress for provision. As this post was to have been supplied by Pennsylvania, and as you have now undertaken to furnish the supplies required of that state, I must request you to take the speediest means of giving relief to the Garrison. The quantity of provision which I judged necessary was mentioned in the estimate which I transmitted to the Board of War, and which you no doubt have seen. I have the honor etc.

P. S. I have written to Captn. Mitchell to subsist his Men by collections from the Inhabitants untill a regular supply can be sent to him.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Head Quarters, August 9, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have received your Letter of the 7th. Shoes will be issued to the State Companies under your Command, upon your Return. I will only recommend, that proper precautions should be taken respecting the delivery, and that the men of the State Companies should be made accountable for them: the same mode will be pursued in supplying the other Companies, as has been formerly practiced. I am &c.

P. S. Captain Sacket and Captain Williams Should become responsible to the Clothier, that the shoes are properly accounted for. The Shoes may be drawn and issued through the Channel of the same Person, who is employed by Col Scammell for the same purpose.[67]

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, August 9, 1781.

Sir: You will be pleased to convene the General Officers now in Camp and with them take into consideration a dispute of Rank between Colonels Swift and Webb. You will be pleased to report to me the opinion of the Board thereon. I am etc.[68]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobb's Ferry,
Thursday, August 9, 1781.

MORNING ORDERS

Brigadier General Glover is appointed General Officer of this day vice Major General Parsons absent.

Parole Kingston. Countersigns Warwick, Ringwood.

For the Day Tomorrow
- Brigadier General Patterson
- Colonel Webb
- For Picquet Major Gibbs
- Inspector Captain Converse.

At a General Court martial held at Camp August the 7th. whereof Colonel Putnam is President Captain Abner Dow, of the 9th Massachusetts regiment charged with "not joining his regiment when ordered so to do by the Commanding

[67] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.
[68] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

officer of the regiment" was tried agreeably to a Resolve of Congress of December 6th. 1779 respecting absent officers.

The Court on Consideration are of opinion that Captain Dow has been absent from his regiment without Leave since his regiment accordingly or to give satisfactory reasons for his since been properly notified and directed to join his regiment agreeably to the Resolve of Congress of December 6th. 1779 respecting Absent Officers and that he has neglected to join his regiment accordingly or to give satisfactory reasons for his continuance of absence.

They therefore Sentence that he be cashiered.

The Commander in Chief approves the foregoing Sentence.

At the same Court August 6th. 1781 John Frazer, Matross in Colonel Lamb's regiment of Artillery charged with "Inlisting into the Rhode Island regiment without having obtain'd a discharge from said regiment of Artillery and afterwards deserting from the Rhode Island regiment" was tried and found Guilty of a breach of Articles 1st. and 3d. of the Rules and Articles of war and sentenced to receive one hundred Lashes on his bare back.

Corporal Samuel Gray, of the second Connecticut regiment charged with "Desertion and reinlisting in the Massachusetts line" was tried found Guilty of a Breach of Articles 1st. and 3d. of the Rules and Articles of War and sentenced to do the duty of a private Centinel and to receive one hundred Lashes on his naked back.

Corporal John Chace, of the first New York regiment Charged with "Desertion and reinlisting in the Rhode Island Regiment" was tried and found Guilty as above and sentenced to do the duty of a private Centinel and to receive one hundred Lashes on his naked back.

Joseph Ross, a Soldier of the late fifth Connecticut Regiment charged with "Desertion and reinlisting in Colonel

Sheldon's regiment of Light dragoons was tried found Guilty as above and sentenced to receive one hundred Lashes on his naked Back.

Peter Moore, Matross in Colonel Crane's regiment of Artillery charged with "Stealing Six Guineas and a Silver watch out of the pocket of a french soldier when asleep," was tried.

The Court on consideration are of opinion the charge against Peter Moore is not supported.

The Commander in Chief Approves the foregoing Sentences and orders them to take place.

Peter Moore to be released from Confinement.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry,
Friday, August 10, 1781.

Parole Versailles. Countersigns Dunkirk, Brest.
Major General Lord Stirling
vice Brigr. Huntington
For the day tomorrow Colonel Tupper
For Picquet Major Clift
Inspector Captain Remick

At a General Court Martial held at Westpoint, July 19th. Edmunde Burke, a Soldier in the first New York regiment charged with "being concerned in the mutiny at Albany on the 6th ultimo" was found guilty, being a breach of Article 3d. Section 2d. of the rules and Articles of War and Sentenced to suffer Death.

At the same Court July 21st. Garret Lansing, soldiers in the 1st. New York regiment charged.

First "with Desertion and joining the Enemy, secondly with Changing his Name to John Johnston and reinlisting in

the Massachusetts line" was found guilty being a breach of the 1 and 3d. Articles Section 6th. of the Rules and Articles of War and sentenced to suffer Death.

The Commander in Chief Approves the foregoing Sentences and orders that against Edmund Burke to be carried into execution. But is pleased to remit the Sentence against Lansing who is to be released from Confinement.

To COMTE DE BARRAS

Head Quarters, Dobbs's Ferry, August 10, 1781.

Sir: I do myself the honor to inform your Excellency that by letters from the Marquis de la Fayette dated in Virginia the 26th. and 30th. of last Month, it appears that the enemy had embarked a number of Infantry on board thirty Transports and a detachment of Cavalry on board eight Brigs. They were still lying in Hampton Road, under Convoy of the Charon of 44 Guns and six smaller Frigates. They had pilots for Potowmack River and Chesapeak Bay; but the Marquis imagined this was in order to deceive and that their real destination was New York. He had dispatched a Boat to your Excellency with the foregoing intelligence, but was apprehensive that she would be intercepted.

By a letter from General Forman of the 3d. of this Month, I am informed that Admiral Rodney is expected upon this Coast, and he mentions a circumstance which seems to corroborate the opinion; it is, that a large Store ship is kept at Sandy Hook with provisions and Vegetables.

I inclose your Excellency a Duplicate of my letter of 21st. of July to Count de Grasse. The original is lodged with General Forman upon the Monmouth Coast. Should the Count make

his first appearance off Rhode Island, you will be pleased to present the duplicate to him. It is left under a flying seal for your information.

I have several of our most experienced Pilots ready to go on board the Fleet the moment they appear off the Hook. This circumstance you will be pleased to mention to the Count should you be happy enough to see him first. I have the Honor etc.[69]

To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL

Head Quarters, Dobbs's Ferry, August 10, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have recd. your favors of the 3d. and 6th. instant. The bringing forward the Corps of Invalids from Philada. and Boston was a matter of necessity and not of choice, we must therefore submit to some inconveniencies and put them to duties of the lightest kind.

I have approved the sentences against Burke and Lansing and forward herewith a Warrant for the execution of the former. Lansing is pardonned. The Artillery Men under sentence were pardoned some days since and I thought Colo. Stevens had sent up for them.

The Quarter Master General has had orders respecting the delivery of the Rations to the Boat Builders.

By accounts from Virginia we may hourly expect a part of the Troops from thence to New York. This makes it necessary to add to our force here. You will therefore be pleased to send down Van Schaick's and Hazen's Regiments with their Camp Equipage as expeditiously as possible. They may come by land or by Water as you may think best. If in the last way, let a detachment from Major Darby's command come down in the

[69] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Boats to carry them immediately back. I would have Burke executed before the Regiment leaves the point.

Inclosed you have the Copy of a number of Charges which have been exhibited by Captain Woelper agt. Colo. Nichola. You will furnish the Colonel with a Copy and as soon as Capt. Woelper arrives at the Garrison, let an arrest take place, and order a trial without loss of time. I am etc.[70]

To COLONEL LEWIS NICOLA

Head Quarters, Dobb's Ferry, August 10, 1781.

Sir: I have received yours of the 4th. inst. informg [of] your arrival with the Corps of Invalids at West Point, and inclosing a Return of their Numbers. The Difficulties which you apprehend in their Duty and Subsistence at their present Station, I fancy will mostly vanish on Experience.

Copy of the Charges exhibited against you by Capt Woelper, I have transmitted to Genl McDougall, and desired him to institute a Court Martial thereon, as soon as the Accusant arrives at the Point.

If the proper Charge against Sergt. Carleton for his Desertion, is exhibited, and the Evidences to support it are produced, he may be brot to Trial immediately at the Point. I am etc.[71]

To DEPUTY GOVERNOR JABEZ BOWEN

Head Quarters, Dobb's Ferry, August 10, 1781.

Sir: I have been favored with your Letter of 30th July. The Reason of my mentioning in my first Requisition, a short

[70] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[71] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

Period for the Service of your State Militia, was my Expectation, at the Time, that the Count de Barras would soon leave Newport with his fleet. But as this Event has not, and may not yet take place, the Service of the Militia for the Security of the Fleet, will be essentially necessary, so long as the Count de Barras shall remain in his present Situation, and it is expected that your 500 Men will be still continued, notwithstandg the Arrival of those Expected from Massa. On this Subject I have already written to Govr. Greene, previous to the Receipt of yours, to which Letter I beg leave to refer you for further particulars. I am &c.[72]

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, Dobbs's ferry, August 10, 1781.

Dear Sir: An anxiety for your Excellency's safety induces me to transmit a report I lately rec'd from New York, though it may not in reallity have a sufficient foundation, still caution on the subject may not be improper.

I am informed that George Harden, James Kilty, one Bice of Dutchess County and a fourth person whose name is not noted, are promised a very considerable reward if they will seize your person and conduct you to New York. The places to which these fellows resort, (together with Richard Smith (son of Claudius Smith) and Isaac Sissio, a Molatto, who are both traversing the Country are at Patrick McDonnalds above the High Lands, Galloway's son in law to Austin Smith, at Fletcher Matthews's and his fathers, at Coleman's Unckle to Richard Smith; and at the Rumneys one or both whom are brothers by Law to Claudius Smith.

[72] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

Your Excellency will judge of the propriety of having those places watched, as also John Heffering at Murders Creek who it is said serves as a pilot to convey people from McDonalds through the Mountains below Sovereigns Tavern[73] on their way to New York. With wishes for your personal Safety I am etc.[74]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry,
Saturday, August 11, 1781.

Parole Baltimore. Countersigns Trenton, Sussex.

For the Day tomorrow
- Major General Heath
- Colonel Butler
- For Picquet Major Knapp[75]
- Inspector Captain Drew[76]

The Guard at Dobbs ferry is to be relieved daily and is to be visited by the officers of the day who will likewise visit the whole chain of guards from the North river to where our picquets join those of the French Camp.

While the Army remains in its present position Colonel Sheldon will consider himself under the immediate command of Colonel Scammell.

To COLONEL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, August 11, 1781.

Sir: Some Convoys are coming on from the Jerseys to Dobbs Ferry; for their Security against the Enemy, you will be

[73] Suffern's Tavern.

[74] In the writing of William Stephens Smith. From the original in Washington's Headquarters and Museum, Newburgh, N. Y.

[75] Maj. Moses Knapp, of the Tenth Massachusetts Regiment. He was transferred to the Fifth Massachusetts Regiment in January, 1783, and served to June, 1783.

[76] Capt. Seth Drew.

pleased, by Order of the General, to throw out some Parties from your Command through Aquacanack to Springfield with Directions to scour below towards Newark, and continue till the Convoys are safely arrived. I am &c.

P. S. In your Command you will include the Militia lately arrived.[77]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL CALVIN SMITH

Head Quarters, August 11, 1781.

Sir: His Excellency the Commander in Chief, is pleased to direct that Lt. Holden[78] of Your Regt. should continue to do duty with the Corps of Guards[79] until further Orders. I am &c.[80]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry,
Sunday, August 12, 1781.

Parole Provence. Countersigns Paris, Passy.

For the day tomorrow
- Brigadier General Huntington vice M. G. Lord Stirling
- Lieutenant Colonel Smith
- For Picquet Major Keith[81]
- Inspector Captain Smith[82]

The Non commissioned Officers and Soldiers to be serv'd with a Gill of Rum pr Man this Afternoon.

[77] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "J[onathan] T[rumbull, Jr.] Secty."
[78] Lieut. John Holden, jr., of the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment. He was transferred to the Second Massachusetts Regiment in June, 1783, and served to November, 1783.
[79] Commander in Chief's Guards.
[80] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D. Humphrys Aide De Camp."
[81] Maj. James Keith, of the Eighth Massachusetts Regiment. He retired in January, 1783.
[82] Capt. David Smith.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID FORMAN

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry, August 13, 1781,
10 O.C. A. M.

Sir: I was favored with your Letter dated Saturday Evening 9 OClock, on Sunday about 11 OClock A. M. by your Chain of Expresses.

If the Fleet shall not prove to be from Virginia, with Lord Cornwallis' Troops as you conjecture, I shall expect to hear in the course of this day, agreeably to your intimation. I need not urge again the importance of the present moment, and how anxious I am to obtain the earliest information of every thing that may be interesting to us. With great regard &c.[83]

GENERAL ORDERS

Monday, August 13, 1781.

Parole Newhaven. Countersigns Fairfield, Stratford.

For the Day Tomorrow
- Major General Howe
- Lieutenant Colonel Millen[84]
- For Picquet Major Ashley[85]
- Inspector Captain Warner[86]
- vice Robinson[87]

The Commander in Chief having been informed that various practices have been made use of by the officers of one regiment to inlist for the War men who are engaged for three years in another.

[83] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

[84] Lieut. Col. James Mellen (Millen), of the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment. He was appointed lieutenant colonel commandant of the Third Massachusetts Regiment in January, 1783, and served to June, 1783.

[85] Maj. Moses Ashley.

[86] Capt. Robert Warner, of the First Connecticut Regiment. He was made major in May, 1782, and retired in January, 1783.

[87] Capt. Caleb Robinson.

He thinks proper to direct that a stop may be put to such mode of proceeding, but at the same time recommends to the officers to endeavour to engage for the War those men in their own regiments whose services are for any other term without burthering the Continent with any additional expence for their enlistment. By these means the public service will be equally benefitted and the internal arrangement and level of regiments will be preserved.

Two Dragoons from Colonel Sheldon's regiment are to mount daily with the Guard at Dobbs ferry and are to be dispatched by the officer to the General Officer of the day and to Colonel Scammell with intelligence.

Captain Bleeker[88] of the first New York regiment is appointed to do the duty of Inspector to the Light troops under the Command of Colonel Scammell.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Dobb's Ferry, August 13, 1781.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's favors of the 28th. ulto. and 3d. 7th. and 9th. Insts.

I esteem myself happy in a personal communication with Mr. Morris and Mr. Peters;[89] good consequences must certainly result from taking up the affairs of the next campaign at so early a period as the present.

I shall in obedience to the order of Congress transmit their resolve respecting the treatment of our marine prisoners to the officer commanding the british Fleet at New York; but I think it more than probable that he will have address enough to procure the materials to frame an answer similar to that which

[88] Capt. Leonard Bleeker. He was brigade major under Lafayette from May to October, 1781, and served to November, 1783.

[89] Robert Morris and Richard Peters.

was made to the last remonstrance on the same subject. These were no others than ample certificates under the hands of several of our Captains and Mates then remaining on board the prison Ships, that the charges of ill treatment were in every respect groundless.

I have information that a Fleet of twenty sail entered the hook on saturday last. Genl. Foreman, my informant, was of opinion they were from Virginia. I expect to hear from him again every moment, with a certain Account from whence they were. I have the honor etc.[90]

To GEORGE WALTON AND RICHARD HOWLEY[91]

Head Quarters, Dobbs's Ferry, August 13, 1781.

Gentlemen: I am honored with your favr. of the 7th. I can with no propriety give a decided opinion upon the matter which you have been pleased to refer to me, without being acquainted with what has previously passed between the Commissaries of prisoners or Commissioners for settling a Cartel respecting the Rank of Mr. Elbert.[92] If he has been heretofore claimed by the Enemy as a Brigadier of Militia and allowed as such by us, he is undoubtedly released by the terms of the Cartel lately established. If on the contrary he has been considered as a Continental Colonel, he must await his exchange. The matter seems to rest upon the determination of the above simple facts. I am unacquainted with any thing relating to the case of Govr. Wright.[93]

It is no small addition to the pleasure I feel upon the favorable turn of affairs to the southward to find that it is the

[90] In the writing of Peregrine Fitzhugh.
[91] Georgia Delegates to the Continental Congress.
[92] Brig. Gen. Samuel Elbert, of the Georgia Militia.
[93] Sir James Wright, royal governor of Georgia. It was claimed by the Georgians that he broke his parole.

general opinion that this happy change has been wrought, almost solely, by the personal abilities of Major Genl. Greene. My long acquaintance with the merits of that valuable Officer made me certain that his exertions, even if not successful, would justify my appointment. I must confess he has more than answered my warmest expectations. I have the honor etc.[94]

To CAPTAIN PATRICK DENNIS

Head Quarters, Dobbs's Ferry, August 13, 1781.

Sir: I have recd. your favr. of the 11th. by Mr. Prevost. I do not think it will be prudent for you or any of the pilots to go nearer the Coast than you are at present, untill you know from Genl. Forman that the Fleet has made its appearance; indeed I do not think it will be quite safe for Capt. Dobbs and the other pilots to remain constantly in the same lodgings, even at Baskenridge. I would recommend it to them to shift every now and then, leaving word where they are, that should an Express arrive they may be found on the instant.

I think it will be best to take up a light Waggon for those who have not Horses already provided, should you be called down to the Coast. I shall furnish money for the hire of that and other Charges. I gave Capt. Dobbs ten Guineas towards defraying Expenses when he went from hence. There will be no danger between Baskenridge and Monmouth Court House, and from thence to the shore an Escort will be easily procured, especially when it shall be found that a French Fleet is off.

Boats will undoubtedly be sent from the Fleet sufficient to carry you off. Genl. Forman will have gone on board before you can get down, and will have informed the Admiral that you are in waiting. I am &c.[94]

[94] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To JOHN CLEVES SYMMES

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry, August 14, 1781.

Sir: I have recd. your Letter of this date[95] respecting Mr. Coldebrugh a forage Master belonging to the Army.

The circumstances of the affair in question, I am totally unacquainted with; but you may be assured, that at the same time I am very unhappy, that any differences should arise between Citizens and Persons belonging to the Army. It is not my wish that any who have been guilty of Crimes properly cognizable by the Laws of the Land should be exculpated, or schreened from justice.

At this stage of the Campaign, however, it would be very inexpedient to direct a Person to be taken from the Execution of his duty, whose services could not possibly be so essential at any other period as at the present. I am etc.[96]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID FORMAN

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry, August 14, 1781.
11 OClock A. M.

Sir: I have safely received your favor of yesterday Morning, about an hour ago.

Before the arrival of your Letter, I had not received any particulars of the Fleet lately arrived at N York, but expect Accts. every instant; I shall comply with your request; as it is my most earnest desire, by comparing all the different intelligences to ascertain the state of Matters among the Enemy, with the utmost accuracy and precision. With great regard &c.[96]

[95] Symmes's letter is not now found in the *Washington Papers*.
[96] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry,
Tuesday, August 14, 1781.

Parole Normandy. Countersigns Burgundy, Champagne.

For the day Tomorrow
Major General Parson
Lieutenant Colonel Sherman
For Picquet Major Morrell
Inspector Captain Converse

A Fatigue party of one hundred men under proper officers (for three days) are to parade tomorrow morning at 6 o'clock at Commissary Irwin's Quarters. They will take their orders from Colonel Gouvion. The Quarter Master General will furnish them with Fascine Hatchets.

*To COMTE DE BARRAS

August 15, 1781.

P. S.[97] The sentiments contained in the foregoing letter perfectly accord with my opinion, and I am more inclined to adopt them, as we have seen, in the British Gazettes accounts of a Squadron under the command of Admiral Digby said to be intended to reinforce the British fleets in these Seas. Should this Squadron actually arrive, from a junction with Admirals Rodney and Graves, and find the French Naval force

[97] This postscript was appended by Washington to Rochambeau's letter to Barras, August 15, the "Letter Book" copy of which is in the *Rochambeau Papers* in the Library of Congress. De Grasse's letter to Barras announcing his coming did not order Barras to join him, but left Barras free to act as he pleased. De Grasse was Barras's junior, but had been recently promoted to a higher rank, and it was, probably, some feeling over this which led Barras to decide on an expedition to Newfoundland as soon as he received word of De Grasse's intention to visit the coast of America. Rochambeau's letter of August 15, with Washington's postscript, was effective, and Barras then decided to join De Grasse in the Chesapeake.

seperated, it might, eventually, prove fatal to the fleet of his most Christian Majesty commanded by the Count de Grasse and yourself. I cannot avoid repeating therefore, in earnest terms the request of the Count de Rochambeau that you would form the junction, and as soon as possible, with the Count de Grasse in Chesapeak bay. With much respect &c.

GENERAL ORDERS

Wednesday, August 15, 1781.

Parole Staten Island. Countersigns Springfield, Chatham.

For the Day Tomorrow { Brigadier General Glover / Lieutenant Colonel Newhall / For Picquet Major B. Porter / Inspector Captain Remick

The Army will hold itself in the most perfect readiness to move at the shortest notice.

Colonel Scammell's detachment is to be immediately completed to its original establishment by men every way qualified to act as Light Infantry; and any men now in the corps who do not answer that description are to be changed without delay. Colonel Scammell will make application to the different corps for their deficiencies and the exchange of such of the men as are unfit for the service he is employed on.

Colonel Gouvion being on Court Martial Captain Rachfontaine will give the necessary directions for the employment of the working party ordered yesterday.

The General Court Martial whereof Colonel Putnam is President is dissolved and another ordered to assemble tomorrow morning 10 o'clock at the President's Marquee, or such place as he may direct for the trial of all such Prisoners as shall come before them. Colonel Swift will Preside. Lieutenant

Colonel C. Smith, Major Oliver, two Captains from the first Connecticutt, two from the second Connecticutt, one from the first Massachusetts, two from the second, one from the third and two from the New Hampshire Brigades will attend as Members. All Evidences and Persons concerned to attend. An orderly serjeant from each Division to be sent to the court daily.

Thomas Dean, Esqr. will take Post at Storm's bridge vice I. Requa, and Joseph Youngs Esqr. will be posted at the bridge near Chattiton's hill instead of Eden Hunt mentioned in the orders of the 5th. instant.

AFTER ORDERS

A Working party consisting of a Sub, two serjeants, two Corporals and Thirty privates from Van Schaick's regiment and a like Party from the regiment of Hazen will assemble on their respective parades with their arms and one days Provisions tomorrow morning at eight o'clock: They will receive their Instructions from the Quarter Master General.

To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Head Quarters, Dobbs's Ferry, August 15, 1781.

My dear Marquis: I have recd. your letters of the 26th. and 30th. ulto. and 1st. Inst. I cannot learn that any troops have yet arrived at New York from Virginia. A fleet of 20 sail came in last Saturday with troops, but they are said to be Hessian Recruits from Europe.

The Concorde Frigate is arrived at Newport from Count de Grasse. He was to leave St. Domingo the 3d. of this month with a Fleet of between 25 and 29 sail of the line and a considerable Body of land forces. His destination is immediately for the Chesapeak. So that he will either be there by the time this

reaches you, or you look for him every moment. Under these circumstances, whether the enemy remain in full force, or whether they have only a detachment left, you will immediately take such a position as will best enable you to prevent their sudden retreat thro' North Carolina, which I presume they will attempt the instant they perceive so formidable an Armament. Should General Wayne with the troops destined for South Carolina still remain in the neighbourhood of James River and the enemy should have made no detachment to the southward,[98] you will detain those troops untill you hear from me again, and inform Genl. Greene of the cause of their delay. If Wayne should have marched, and should have gained any considerable distance, I would not have him halted.

You shall hear further from me as soon as I have concerted plans and formed dispositions for sending a reinforcement from hence. In the mean time I have only to recommend a continuation of that prudence and good conduct which you have manifested thro' the whole of your Campaign. You will be particularly careful to conceal the expected arrival of the Count, because if the enemy are not apprised of it, they will stay on board their transports in the Bay, which will be the luckiest Circumstance in the World.

You will take measures for opening a communication with Count de Grasse the moment he arrives, and will concert measures with him for making the best uses of your joint forces untill you receive aid from this quarter. I am &c.

P. S. I would not wish you to call out a large body of Militia upon this occasion, but rather keep those you have compact and ready for service.[99]

[98] Cornwallis had taken post at Yorktown and Gloucester, Va., and commenced fortifying those places on August 1 and 2.

[99] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To COLONEL SAMUEL MILES

Head Quarters, Dobbs Ferry, August 15, 1781.

Sir: The enclosed Dispatches for the Marquis De La Fayette are of the greatest importance. If there is a Chain of Expresses established, that the conveyance may be depended upon in the shortest conceivable time, you will have them instantly forwarded by that mode. If there is no such establishment, I must request you will forward the Letter immediately by a trusty, active Express, with Orders to ride Night and Day and to call on the Magistrates, or Military Officers for Horses and assistance, and to deliver the Letter to the Marquis at the earliest possible period.

You will be pleased to acknowledge the receipt of this, noting the moment when it comes to hand, and informing me of the mode of conveyance by which you have expedited the Dispatches for the Marquis. I am etc.[1]

[1]The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

On August 15 Washington wrote to Major General Heath, referring the memorial of Udny Hay to a board of general officers, of which Heath was president. The board reported August 16 that Hay was entitled to the rank and emoluments of a "retiring lieutenant colonel." Washington's letter to Heath is in the Massachusetts Historical Society, and the board's report is in the *Washington Papers*.

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